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# THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹6.00

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## NEARBY

### Id-ul-Fitr to be celebrated tomorrow

BENGALURU

Id-ul-Fitr that marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramzan will be celebrated across the State on Tuesday. A release from the Moon Sighting Committee in Bengaluru said that the moon was not sighted in Bengaluru and other districts of Karnataka due to heavy rain.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

### PSI exam scam: One of the key accused gives up

KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

Manjunath Melakundi, an Assistant Engineer at the Irrigation Department who was one of the prime accused in the PSI recruitment scam, surrendered before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Sunday.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

### State signs MoU for semiconductor fab plant

BENGALURU

Karnataka on Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel-based ISMC Analog Fab Pvt. Ltd. for setting up semiconductor fab plant at a cost of ₹22,900 crore ($3 billion) in the State over the next seven years.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 5

# April GST revenues go past ₹1.67 lakh crore

## Finance Ministry terms collection a sign of 'faster recovery'

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit a fresh high of ₹1,67,540 crore in April, with revenues from goods imports rising 30% year-on-year and domestic transactions, along with services imports, rising 17%.

The Finance Ministry said that April's revenues for transactions undertaken in March reflected a "faster recovery" of business activity, while industry experts attributed part of the surge to a massive uptick in input costs for producers, some of which is also visible in high retail prices as well as new and tighter input credit norms.

Overall GST revenues were 20% higher than a year ago, and 17.9% higher than the March 2022 collections of ₹1,42,095 crore with 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in March, 13% higher than in February 2022. "For the first time, gross GST collection has crossed ₹1.5 lakh crore mark," it said.

**Revenue check** | India's goods and service tax collections touched a record ₹1.68 lakh crore in April. The revenues were 20% higher than a year ago

### Multiple factors

"While the GST collections in respect of March have always been high, the record collections are due to multiple favourable factors, including the recent changes on permitting input tax credits only upon timely compliance by the vendors," Deloitte India partner M.S. Mani said.

### 'Reflects price rise'

Vivek Jalan, partner at Tax Connect Advisory, said the higher revenues not only reflect the continuing economic recovery but also the tremendous price rise in input costs and the implementation of GSTR 2B under which a recipient can only take credit for inputs, whose suppliers have filed their returns.

Central GST revenues constituted ₹33,159 crore of April's gross revenues from the tax, while State GST accounted for ₹41,793 crore and Integrated GST made up ₹81,939 crore, including ₹36,705 crore on import of goods.

GST Compensation Cess collections, used to recompense States, grew 13.08% in April over March collections, to touch ₹10,649 crore. The cess collections included ₹857 crore collected on import of goods, marking a 8.9% decline from the ₹941 crore cess from import of goods in March.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

# Ex-MLA held in Kerala hate speech case

## BJP leaders criticise govt. for police action

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former MLA and Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leader P.C. George was arrested on Sunday for his alleged hate speech against Muslims. He was later granted conditional bail by a magistrate court here.

A day after the police registered a *suo motu* case in connection with the speech he made at the Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan – a conclave held by the Sangh Parivar – here on April 29, a police team took him into custody from his residence at Erattupetta in Kottayam around 5 a.m., and brought him to the State capital.

Former MLA P.C. George being taken to the residence of a magistrate in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. • S. MAHINSHA

The police action was met with stiff objection by the BJP which accused the government of adopting double standards of justice. The ruling CPI(M) and the Opposition Congress criticised Mr. George's remarks.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan, who was refused entry into the Armed Reserve camp where Mr. George was brought after the arrest, charged the government with arresting citizens for expressing dissent, even while letting murderers go scot-free. He, however, sidestepped questions on the propriety of Mr. George's controversial statements.

The police had received nearly 20 complaints, including one from the Muslim Youth League, against the former Government Chief Whip and a controversial political figure, whose party is a National Democratic Alliance constituent.

The Fort police charged him under Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code.

Speaking to mediapersons, Mr. George appeared unfazed and remained firm on his stance.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
ANOTHER REPORT ▸ PAGE 7

# Rain brings relief and misery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Roads were inundated, electricity poles and trees came crashing down, water entered homes and Khelo India events were disrupted as heavy rain lashed the city on Sunday afternoon. As the downpour continued well into the evening, many key roads were inundated, posing a challenge to motorists and pesdestrians.

Power disruptions were reported across the city as the electricity infrastructure took a beating. Across Bengaluru, over 170 electricity poles were damaged or fell, and more than 160 trees were uprooted, Bescom officials said. However, the rain brought major relief from the summer heat as the maximum and minimum temperatures fell to 33.9° Celsius and 23° Celsius, respectively.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 2

# e-Shram to help settle workers' accident claims

## Direct benefit transfer via unique ID

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Top functionaries of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry said last week that the Ministry was working on a mechanism to process accident insurance claims by unorganised workers registered on the e-Shram portal, which has seen over 27 crore registrations so far.

The portal was launched six months ago with the aim of creating a national database of unorganised workers and to facilitate social security schemes for them. Among the promises made then was that the workers would be eligible for ₹2 lakh as accident insurance.

A senior official of the Ministry said discussions were on to link the e-Shram portal with the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Centre's existing accident insurance scheme. The scheme would allow the workers to get the direct benefit transfer (DBT) through the e-Shram unique ID number. The official added that the unique IDs on the e-Shram portal carried the same series from the Employees Provident Fund Organisation's universal account number (UAN).

Another functionary said that a "mechanism for disposal" of the claims was in the works.

Workers in the unorganised sector will be eligible for ₹2 lakh accident insurance.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

# Operational readiness key: Army chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Stating that the geopolitical situation is fast changing and there are several challenges ahead of us, Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Sunday that his utmost priority would be to ensure very high standards of operational preparedness while also taking forward modernisation with focus on indigenisation.

"Utmost priority would be to ensure very high standards of operational preparedness to face current, contemporary and future challenges across the spectrum of conflict," Gen. Pande told journalists. General Pande assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff on Friday.

On force modernisation, he said, "Effort would be to leverage new technologies through indigenisation and self-reliance."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

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THE HINDU

# Text & Context

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## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Xiaomi deposits seized

**5,551** In ₹ crore, the deposits of Xiaomi seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of India on Saturday for violating the Indian foreign exchange law, officials said. In a press release after the ED's statement, Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited said its operations in the country are "firmly compliant with local laws and regulations". The seizure was under sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) after a probe was launched by the federal agency. PTI

### Breast cancer screening

**4** In crore, the number of women who underwent breast screening for detection of its cancer, while 3.16 crore others were screened for cervical cancer under the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani said on Sunday. She added that 45 crore visits by women were registered in the last two years at the health and wellness centres set up under Ayushman Bharat, the Centre's health protection scheme, for primary health care. She said that only 11% of the workforce in the sector comprised of women. PTI

### IMD to spread to cities

**50** The number of cities across India in which the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is set to launch Urban Meteorological Services (UMS), Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department informed the presspersons. The weather office had launched the UMS for Delhi-NCR in June last year from 13 weather stations to provide current observations through Nowcast. Metro cities such as Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru are expected to see the launch of UMS in the first phase. PTI

### Hottest April in years

**122** The years since northwest and central India experienced their hottest April with average maximum temperatures reaching 35.9 and 37.78°C respectively, IMD said on Saturday. Addressing a press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said northwest and west-central parts of the country including Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab, would continue to experience above-normal temperatures in May as well. He added that parts of northwest and northeast India were expected to get below normal rainfall in May. PTI

### Turtle hatchlings

**6,523** The number of Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings released into the sea from nesting sites this year in Goa, State Minister Vishwajit Rane said on Friday. "Turtle conservation is being carried out at four nesting beaches in Goa: Morjim and Mandrem in North Goa, Agonda and Galgibagh in South Goa. Olive Ridley turtles are one of five marine turtles that visit these beaches and lay eggs from November to April," he tweeted. The Forest Department keeps the eggs in an artificial hatchery. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

LETTER AND SPIRIT

# The Delhi dual governance conundrum

How did the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court rule on the powers of the Delhi govt. vis-a-vis the Lieutenant Governor? What followed this?

ABHILASH M.R.

*Delhi has been the flashpoint of innumerable power struggles but 2015 was a momentous year in the history of the metropolis. The country's two main political parties failed miserably in an election to see who controls the National Capital Territory. The Aam Aadmi Party swept the election, winning 67 of the 70 seats. However, in the absence of statehood for Delhi, there has been a prolonged confrontation on the relative powers of the territorial administration and the Union government.*

## THE GIST

- The status of Delhi being a Union Territory under Schedule 1 of the Constitution but christened the 'National Capital Territory' in 2014 put the dynamics of the relationship between the State and the Central Government under severe strain.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the L-G shall act as a facilitator rather than anointing himself as an adversary to the elected Council of Ministers. At the same time, the Court ruled that the NCT of Delhi cannot be granted the status of a State under the constitutional scheme
- After the Constitution Bench laid down the law on the broad issues involved, the contested questions were listed before a two-judge Bench. While one Judge found that services were totally outside the purview of the Government of NCT, the other held that officers below the rank of joint secretary are under the control of the Government of NCT.

**Dilemmas of dual governance**

The status of Delhi being a Union Territory under Schedule 1 of the Constitution but christened the 'National Capital Territory' under Article 239 AA, engrafted by the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2014, put the dynamics of the relationship between the elected Council of Ministers in Delhi and the Central Government under severe strain. The Administrator of Delhi, renamed as the Lieutenant Governor (L-G)

**This split verdict has resulted in the present hearing before a three-Judge Bench presided over by the Chief Justice, in the course of which the Solicitor General sought reference to a Constitution Bench. This has been opposed by the Government of the NCT of Delhi.**

under the aforementioned amendment, crossed swords with the elected government on multiple issues, including control over agencies, namely the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Civil Services and the Electricity Board. The issues pertaining to the power to appoint the Public Prosecutor in Delhi and to appoint a Commission of Enquiry under the Commissions of Enquiry Act, etc. were vexed legal questions necessitating interpretation of the Constitution.

Though the Delhi High Court decided in favour of the Central Government relying on the status of Delhi as a Union Territory, on appeal by the NCT, the Supreme Court referred the matter to a Constitution Bench to decide on the substantial questions of law pertaining to the powers of the elected government of Delhi vis-a-vis the L-G.

The five-judge Bench opened a new jurisprudential chapter in the Administration of NCT by invoking the rule of purposive construction to say that the objectives behind the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act shall guide the interpretation of Article 239AA and breathed the principles of federalism and democracy into Article 239AA, thereby finding a parliamentary intent to accord a sui generis status in distinction from other Union Territories.

The Court declared that the L-G is bound by the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers, noting that the Delhi Assembly also has the power to make laws over all subjects that figure in the Concurrent List, and all, except three excluded subjects, in the State List. The L-G ought to act on the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers, except when he refers a matter to the President for a final decision.

Regarding the L-G's power to refer to the President any matter on which there is a difference of opinion between L-G and the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court ruled that "any matter" cannot be construed to mean "every matter", and such a reference shall arise only in exceptional circumstances. L-G shall act as a facilitator rather than anointing himself as an adversary to the elected Council of Ministers. At the same time, the Court ruled that the National Capital Territory of Delhi cannot be granted the status of a State under the constitutional scheme.

**Split verdict on services**

After the Constitution Bench laid down the law on the broad issues involved, the contested questions were listed before a two-judge Bench. The Court unanimously held that while the Anti-corruption Bureau belongs to the province of the Centre, the Electricity Board under Government of NCT is the Appropriate Authority under the Electricity Act of 2003. While it held that only Central Government has the power to constitute enquiry Commission under the 1952 Act, the power to appoint Public Prosecutor is vested with Government of NCT. While one Judge found that services

were totally outside the purview of the Government of NCT, the other held that officers below the rank of joint secretary are under the control of the Government of NCT.

**Back to the Constitution Bench?**

This split has resulted in the present hearing before a three-Judge Bench presided over by the Chief Justice, in the course of which the Solicitor General sought reference to a Constitution Bench. This has been opposed by the Government of the NCT of Delhi, whose counsel argued that forming another Constitution Bench to decide the matter would amount to a "review" of the earlier Constitution Bench ruling. The 3-Judge Bench has reserved its orders on the question.

It is germane to remember the observation of Justice Ashok Bhushan penned as part of the Constitution Bench decision on NCT (2018) that, "From persons holding high office, it is expected that they shall conduct themselves in faithful discharge of their duties so as to ensure smooth running of administration so that rights of all can be protected."

Unless the stakeholders recognise this axiomatic precept, Delhi would continue to be under administrative and political distress.

The 2021 amendment to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act,1991, is a pointer to the possibility that the tug-of-war will not end. The aforementioned amendment is also under challenge before the Supreme Court.

EXPLAINER

# The recent woes of the jute industry in West Bengal

Is West Bengal's jute industry reeling under a crisis? What are the reasons for it?

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

**The story so far:** Member of Parliament (MP) from Barrackpore constituency in West Bengal, Arjun Singh, met Textile Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday to apprise him about issues concerning jute farmers, workers and the overall jute industry. Mr. Singh later said in a tweet that the meeting was very positive and expressed hope that the issues would be resolved soon. The Barrackpore MP had earlier written to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, seeking her intervention into the "arbitrary decision" of capping the price for procuring raw jute from the mills. He was referring to the Office of the Jute Commissioner (JCO)'s September 30 notification mandating that no entity would be allowed to purchase or sell raw jute at a price exceeding ₹6,500 per quintal.

Mr. Singh had also written to Chief Ministers of other jute producing States as Assam, Tripura, Odisha and Bihar, seeking their intervention.

The West Bengal BJP vice president, in a letter, mentioned that the operations of 20 jute mills in his constituency, with lakhs of people dependent on them, were adversely affected with many forced to shut down and many others on the verge

Workers carrying raw materials to Hukumchand Jute Mill in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. • FILE PHOTO

of closure.

A mill executive on the condition of anonymity told *The Hindu*, "We have been held hostage it seems." He said that of approximately 60 mills operating in the State, 15 had shut down because of the crisis.

**What is the problem?**

In simple words, mills are procuring raw jute at prices higher than what they are selling them at after processing. Let's understand the mechanism first. Mills do not acquire their raw material directly from the farmers, but instead through intermediaries. As a standard practice, the middlemen charge mills for their services, which involves procuring jute from farmers, grading, bailing and then bringing the bales to the mills.

The government has a fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute procurement from farmers, which is ₹4,750 per quintal for the 2022-23 season. However, as the executive stated, this reached his mill at ₹7,200 per quintal, that is, ₹700 more than the ₹6,500 per quintal cap for the final product. Though the Union government has come up with several schemes to prevent de-hoarding, the executive believes the mechanism requires a certain "systematic regulation".

**What happened to supply?**

What made the situation particularly worrisome recently was the occurrence of Cyclone Amphan in May 2020 and the subsequent rains in major jute producing States. These events led to lower acreage, which in turn led to lower production and yield compared to previous years. Additionally, as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) stated in its report, this led to production of a lower quality of jute fibre in 2020-21 as water-logging in large fields resulted in farmers harvesting the crop prematurely.

Acreage issues were accompanied by hoarding at all levels - right from the farmers to the traders.

**Where is jute used?**

Bulk of the final jute produced is used for packaging purposes. The provisions of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 or the JPM Act mandate that 100% production of foodgrains and 20% sugar production must be packaged in jute bags. The share of jute used for sacks, therefore, increased from 67.9% for the TE (TE: Triennium Ending or three years ending) 2010-11 to 78.3% in TE 2020-21. On the other hand, jute used for manufacturing other products (such as furnishing materials, fashion accessories, floor coverings or varied applications in paper and textile industries) has declined from 15.5% to 9.7% during the same period.

As per the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), India is the largest producer of jute followed by Bangladesh and China. However, in terms of acreage and trade, Bangladesh takes the lead accounting for three-fourth of the global jute exports in comparison to India's 7%. This can be attributed to the fact that India lags behind Bangladesh in producing superior quality jute fibre due to infrastructural constraints related to retting, farm mechanisation, lack of availability of certified seeds and varieties suitable for the country's agro-climate. What also does not bode well for India is that jute acreage competes with crops as paddy, maize, groundnut, and sesame. The increased availability of synthetic substitutes is further bothering the demand for jute domestically.

Further, as the CACP report stated, Bangladesh provides cash subsidies for varied semi-finished and finished jute products. Hence, the competitiveness emerges as a challenge for India to explore export options in order to compensate for the domestic scenario.

**What is at stake?**

As the jute sector provides direct employment to 3.70 lakh workers in the country and supports the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families, closure of the mills is a direct blow to workers and indirectly, to the farmers whose production is used in the mills. West Bengal, Bihar and Assam account for almost 99% of India's total production.

## THE GIST

- Mills are procuring raw jute at prices higher than what they are selling them at after processing. A September 30, 2021, notification mandated that no entity would be allowed to purchase or sell raw jute at a price exceeding ₹6,500 per quintal
- The cyclone Amphan in May 2020 and the subsequent rains in major jute producing States aggravated the crisis.
- Bangladesh provides cash subsidies for varied semi-finished and finished jute products. Hence, the competitiveness emerges as a challenge for India to explore export options in order to compensate for the domestic scenario

# Steady downpour provides break from searing heat in city

## Rain throws life out of gear as flooding, tree-fall are reported in many places

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Darkness descended by Sunday afternoon and then began a long downpour accompanied by thunderstorms and hailstones, bringing both joy and misery to the city. As social media was flooded with joyful posts about Bengaluru's forgiving weather after a spate of rather hot days, the rain threw life out of gear, as it has come to.

Though the rainfall recorded was moderate, in the range of 31 to 64 mm, most of it during a short window created a huge impact. Not just two-wheelers, even four-wheelers were seen stopping by as the visibility on the road was very low. "It was dark – like 7 p.m. at 4 p.m. – and the rain was so heavy that the visibility on the road became very poor. I stopped by till the rain reduced and visibility improved," said Chennabasappa, a commuter on Ballari Road.

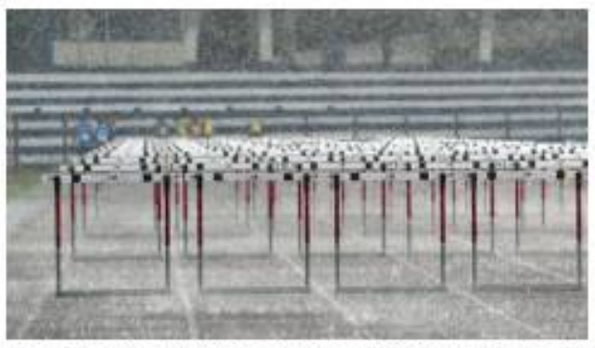
A tree fell on a BMTC bus on K.G. Road in Upparpet traffic police station limits. No injuries were reported. Traffic was diverted on the road for some time.

Apart from bus stops, large numbers of people – either passengers or passers-by – were stuck at several metro stations across the city as they waited for the rain to subside. The heavy downpour also saw water entering Namma Metro trains – an unusual sight in the usually meticulously maintained trains. Events at Khelo India were also disrupted.

Many key roads across the city were inundated with ankle-deep water, posing a serious challenge for commuters to navigate. BVK Iyengar Road, Seshadri Road near Freedom Park, Okalipuram, Kanakapura Road, Jayamahal Road, and several roads in Koramangala were also flooded. Surprisingly, there was flooding even on the Sirsi Circle flyover. Several underpasses, including one at Kodigehalli, had knee-length water.

"There was flooding on most roads and riding a bike was such a risky scenario on Sunday. Many vehicles were seen breaking down on the road," said Shankar Prasad, a commuter who was caught in the rain. Complaints of water gushing into homes were recorded in some pockets of Kaval Byrasandra and Uttarahalli. Over 20 tree-fall were recorded in the city, seven including a coconut tree in BTM Layout alone. More tree-fall were reported from Kengeri, Whitefield, Arakere, Koramangala, and Srirampuram, BBMP officials said.

Power disruptions were reported across the city. Across Bengaluru, over 170 electricity poles were damaged and fell and more than 160 trees were uprooted, officials said.



(Clockwise from top) A tree fell on a BMTC bus on K.G. Road in Bengaluru on Sunday; many electricity poles were damaged during the rain, and the showers also disrupted Khelo India University Games at Sree Kanteerava Stadium. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND K. MURALI KUMAR

## 'High temperature caused rain'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Temperature soaring recently caused the rain in the city and south-interior Karnataka on Saturday night and Sunday evening, A. Prasad, scientist, Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, said.

"When the temperatures rise and there is a trough system, they interact and cause what we call convective rains. There is a trough from Vidarbha in Maharashtra to Telangana and Tamil Nadu, which has had an impact on south-interior Karnataka," he said.

Manoj Rajan, Commissioner, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Cell, said hailstones were a localised phenomenon due to recent rise in temperatures and speedy wind. He also said hailstones were common during pre-monsoon showers.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast thundershowers, at times heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds with speed reaching up to 30-40 kmph, over the next 24 hours for the city and thundershowers for the next 48 hours.

# K-100 project: Sewage flow still a challenge

## BWSSB officials claim nearly 98% of the flow has been checked so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The work on developing K-100, considered to be one of the most historically significant *raja kaluves* (major storm-water drains) in the city, is progressing well and around 65% of the work has been completed, claimed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials.

The major challenge, however, continues to be preventing the flow of sewage into the drain, said civic officials, adding that if it had been plugged completely, more progress could have been achieved. The project, which began in March 2021, was to be completed in 10 months.

A senior official told *The Hindu* that the waterfront beautification work near the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) bus terminus at Shanthinagar had been completed. The major drain connected the erstwhile Dharmabudhi lake, where the Kempegowda Bus Station now stands, with Bellandur lake.

"Work on nearly 5 km of the drain has been completed. There is some progress in the work taken up on the remaining stretches," the official said and added that the entire drain length of around 10 km had been divided into different worksites, each measuring 1 km.

However, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has countered the BBMP's claim on sewage flow in the drain. A senior BWSSB official, who spoke to *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity, said that 95-98% of sewage flow into the drain had been checked. "Earlier, nearly 120 mld (million litres per day) of sewage would flow into the drain. We have managed to bring it down to less than 5 mld now," the official said.

The official, however, said that there may be some unauthorised connections letting out sewage into the secondary drains connected to the *raja kaluve*.

The primary drain is 11.4 km in length, with a total 28.06-km network, including secondary drains. "In many places, the secondary drains have been covered by slabs by the BBMP. We have urged the civic body to remove the slabs and desilt the drains. Only after this is done will the board be able to identify unauthorised connections, plug them and take corrective action," the official said.

Waterfront beautification work near the BMTC bus terminus at Shanthinagar, as part of K-100 project, has been completed. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

**Major design interventions**

- Construction of European style pathway
- Construction of a sewage treatment plant of 5 mld capacity
- Remodelling bridges, construction of composite arch bridges and culverts
- Remodelling retaining walls at critical locations
- Ornamental lighting, horticulture works, including Miyawaki foresting and landscaping

**Project details**

The K-100 project is the State Government's ambitious project that found mention in Bengaluru Mission 2022 that was announced by then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in December 2020. The ₹160-crore 'Citizens Waterway Project' is envisaged to establish the *raja kaluve* as a waterway and ecological corridor in the city on the lines of the development of Sabarmati River Waterfront project in Gujarat, Pasig river in Manila, Cheong Gyecheon in Seoul, South Korea, Klong Ong Ang Canal rejuvenation in Bangkok, Lu Chuan Canal in Taiwan, and many water canals running through residential neighbourhoods in Singapore. It calls for pathways for walking and cycling lanes, while ensuring that drain capacity is not reduced.

# Four arrested for felling sandalwood tree

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The airport police on Sunday arrested four men suspected to be part of an inter-State sandalwood smuggling ring and recovered sandalwood worth ₹50,000 from them. The accused have been identified as Venkatesh, 51, from Sira in Tumakuru; Venkataramana, 42, from Puttaparthi; Venkatesh Sanni, 28, from Nelamangala; and Anil Kumar, 42, from Sidlaghatta.

According to the police, the accused, on April 20, chopped off a fully grown sandalwood tree from a township at Sadahalli.

Based on a complaint, the police analysed CCTV camera footage to identify the accused and arrested them.

The accused were produced before a court which remanded them in judicial custody.

Further investigation is on to ascertain their criminal background.

# Three teenage boys drown in farm pond

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Three boys drowned in a krishi honda (farm pond) when they went to swim along with others at Hampasandra village in Gauribidanur on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Likhith, 15, Manoj, 15, and Rajesh, 16.

According to the police, the boys decided to swim in the farm pond and went along with nine boys. Likhith, Manoj, and Rajesh did not know how to swim. They ventured into the water and drowned, the police said.

## *Honouring the winner*

Music composer Ricky Kej, who won his second Grammy Award recently, was felicitated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Long wait to reach top of Nandi Hills irks car owners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The weekend rush at Nandi Hills is resulting in long waiting hours for cars to reach the hilltop.

On Sunday morning, hundreds of cars were seen in a long queue on the road approaching the hill. As per the district administration's decision, only 300 to 350 cars are allowed to park on the hilltop. The police allow the vehicles depending on the availability of space.

On weekends, the popular tourist spot receives hundreds of visitors and families usually rely on cars to reach the place. Tourists are irked by long waiting hours. "On Sunday, I reached the foothill around 5.30 a.m. The police informed us that parking is already filled. Cars are parked on the roadside for hours. We could not get entry till 7.30 a.m. Authorities said that they have already informed people that only 300 cars are allowed at a time, but the majority of visitors are unaware of it," said a visitor.

However, a police official said, "Earlier, people were haphazardly parking vehicles on the hill. But now, vehicles are allowed to be parked only in designated places. There is no problem for two-wheelers, but for cars, there is limited space. We are allowing vehicles depending on the availability of space. Until then, car owners have to wait in the queue."

- Only 300 to 350 cars are allowed to park on the hilltop
- The police allow the vehicles depending on the availability of space

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to acquire a vacant residential site in the layout known as **'WINN FIELD GARDENS'** more fully described in Schedule hereto **("Schedule Property")** from **Mrs. Rukmini Shyam (wife of Mr. K.Shyam Prasad)("Owner").** The Owner represented that she is the absolute owner and in possession of the Schedule Property and having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Public are notified that any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever to the above transaction are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the said Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property as mentioned herein below and that no person has any claim over the Schedule Property and/or claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a vacant residential Site bearing No. 288 measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1200 square feet in the layout known as **'WINN FIELD GARDENS'** situated at Srirampura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Byatarayanapura and bearing Khata No.777/28/1-288 and bounded on its : **East by** : 30 feet Road; **West by :** Site No. 301; **North by :** Site No. 287 and **South by :** Site No. 289.

**Srilakshmi V. Kittur**
*Advocate*
No.11, 17th Cross, 15th Main,
JP Nagar, 5th Phase, Bengaluru 560 078.

**Date : 02.05.2022**

**उत्तर प्रदेश संस्कृत संस्थानम्**
520, इन्दिरा भवन, अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ- 226001 (उ0प्र0)
फोन : (0522) 2977742, ई-मेल : upsanskritsansthanam@yahoo.com
वेबसाइट : www.upsanskritsansthanam.in

**पुरस्कार विज्ञापन**

उत्तर प्रदेश संस्कृत संस्थान द्वारा वर्ष 2021 के अधोलिखित पुरस्कारों हेतु संस्थान की वेबसाईट के माध्यम से **दिनांक 12 जून, 2022** तक आमंत्रित हैं। ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने के पश्चात इसकी डार्डकॉपी (सभी संलग्नकों सहित) संस्थान के पते पर भेजें। संस्थान में हार्डकॉपी प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि **22 जून, 2022** है। किसी भी कारणवश विलम्ब से प्राप्त आवेदन पत्र विचारणीय नहीं होंगे। क्रमांक 1,2,3,4,5 एवं 6 के पुरस्कारों का पात्रता क्षेत्र सम्पूर्ण भारत है। शेष सभी पुरस्कारों के लिए आवश्यक है कि विद्वान का जन्म उत्तर प्रदेश में हुआ हो अथवा कम से कम 10 वर्षों से उत्तर प्रदेश में निवास कर रहा हो। प्रदेश में निवास सक्षम स्तर से प्रमाणित हो। 'विश्वभारती', महर्षि वाल्मीकि, महर्षि व्यास तथा महर्षि नारद तथा 'विशिष्टि–पुरस्कार' हेतु समिति के अवलोकनार्थ विद्वान की कतिपय प्रतिनिधि कृतियाँ भी उपलब्ध कराना होगा।

1. **विश्वभारती पुरस्कार–(एक) ₹ 5,01,000/-(₹ पाँच लाख एक हजार मात्र)**
2. **महर्षि वाल्मीकि पुरस्कार –(एक) ₹ 2,01,000/-(₹ दो लाख एक हजार मात्र)**
3. **महर्षि व्यास पुरस्कार–(एक) ₹ 2,01,000/-(₹ दो लाख एक हजार मात्र)**

उक्त पुरस्कारों के लिये संस्कृत साहित्य के राष्ट्रीय/अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ख्याति प्राप्त मूर्धन्य विद्वान ही अर्ह होंगे। निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर आवेदन–पत्र स्वयं विद्वान अथवा उनके व्यक्तित्व तथा कृतित्व से परिचित कोई व्यक्ति आवेदन कर सकते हैं। उक्त का क्षेत्र सम्पूर्ण भारतवर्ष होगा। व्यास पुरस्कार की पात्रता हेतु विद्वान की आयु 60 वर्ष होनी चाहिए।

4. **महर्षि नारद पुरस्कार–(एक) ₹ 1,01,000/-(₹ एक लाख एक हजार मात्र)**

संस्कृत पत्रकारिता जगत के ऐसे वरिष्ठ पत्रकार, जिन्होंने कम से कम 25 वर्षों से संस्कृत पत्र–पत्रिकाओं में अपने लेखन/सम्पादन तथा प्रकाशन से संस्कृत पत्र/पत्रिकाओं को राष्ट्रीय स्तर का गौरव प्रदान कराया हो या संस्कृत पत्र/पत्रिकाओं के संस्थापक सम्पादक के साथ ही लेखन (ग्रन्थ) समीक्षा, सम्पादन, अध्यापन कार्य करने वाले विद्वान भी, अर्ह होंगे। पुरस्कार की पात्रता हेतु आवेदक की आयु न्यूनतम 60 वर्ष एवं क्षेत्र सम्पूर्ण भारतवर्ष होगा।

5. **वेद पंडित पुरस्कार– (दस) ₹ 51,000/-(₹ इक्यावन हजार मात्र) प्रत्येक**

इस पुरस्कार हेतु वेद पंडित को वेद की किसी भी शाखा की सम्पूर्ण संहिता सस्वर कण्ठस्थ होनी चाहिये। इस पुरस्कार के लिये वेद पण्डित को संस्थान द्वारा आयोजित वेद परीक्षा में भाग लेना होगा। वेद पण्डित पुरस्कार का क्षेत्र सम्पूर्ण भारत होगा। उत्तर प्रदेश में जन्म लेने वाले अथवा विगत 10 वर्षों में निवास करने वाले वेद पण्डितों को 10 अंक का अधिमान दिया जावेगा।

6. **नामित पुरस्कार – (पाँच) ₹ 51,000/- (₹ इक्यावन हजार मात्र) प्रत्येक**

विगत दो कैलेण्डर वर्षों में प्रकाशित (वर्ष 2019 एवं 2020) काव्य ग्रन्थ, गद्य, पद्य, विषय की मौलिक तथा उत्कृष्ट संस्कृत रचनाओं को और/या दर्शन पुराण, इतिहास, धर्मशास्त्र, वेद, वेदांग तथा व्याकरण की उत्कृष्ट रचनाओं को अधोलिखित नामित पुरस्कारों हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ग्रन्थ की पाँच प्रतियों के साथ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :–

(क) कालिदास पुरस्कार (ख) बाणभट्ट पुरस्कार (ग) शंकर पुरस्कार
(घ) व्यास पुरस्कार (ङ) पाणिनि/सायण पुरस्कार

उपर्युक्त पाँचों पुरस्कार हेतु आवेदन निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ग्रन्थ की 5 प्रतियों के साथ आवेदन आमंत्रित हैं।

नामित पुरस्कार हेतु पुस्तक का प्रथम संस्करण ही पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय होगा। पूर्व प्रकाशित रचनाओं के संशोधित संस्करण पुस्तक के रूप में प्रकाशित होने की दशा में पुरस्कार के लिए विचारणीय हो सकता है जब उसकी 60 प्रतिशत सामग्री पूर्व में प्रकाशित न हुई हो। ऐसी कृति जिसे पहले उ0 प्र0 संस्कृत संस्थान पुरस्कृत कर चुका है, पुरस्कार योग्य नहीं मानी जावेगी।

**नोटः 1. विस्तृत सूचना तथा ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र प्रारूप उ0प्र0 संस्कृत संस्थान, लखनऊ के वेबसाइट www.upsanskritsansthanam.in पर उपलब्ध है।**

**2. प्रत्येक पुरस्कार हेतु अलग–अलग आवेदन करना अनिवार्य है। अलग–अलग पुरस्कारों हेतु एक ही आवेदन मान्य नहीं होगा।**

**निदेशक**

# May Day relief for 7,200 KSRTC employees

## Corporation drops cases initiating disciplinary action for involvement in pilferage, absenteeism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bringing relief to thousands of employees, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), in a goodwill gesture, has dropped 7,200 cases filed against its staff for initiating disciplinary action. The decision coincided with Labour Day. This is the first time in the history of the corporation that the management has taken such a decision.

Disciplinary action is usually initiated on grounds such as absenteeism, pilferage, and misbehaviour with line checking staff. If charges are proved, the corporation imposes a penalty of at least ₹25,000. The corporation has so far imposed a penalty of ₹100 to ₹500 while closing the cases.

Currently, the KSRTC has a staff strength of 35,000, out of which 8,414 are facing disciplinary action.

On Sunday, on the occasion of May Day, Anbu Kumar, KSRTC MD, distributed the case withdrawal orders. Employees who have remained absent for less than 10 months and facing disciplinary action have been asked to report back to duty, out of which, over 100 have already started working.

The MD said that the KSRTC dropped the cases to "build a better working environment and motivate the workers". He said that drivers, conductors and technical staff are the core strength of the organisation that provides public service.

"No cases have been dropped against those who are facing serious charges such as being involved in accidents resulting in deaths. Cases where the departmental hearing has reached an advanced stage are also not being withdrawn. In the rest of the cases, the corporation has given one-time relief," an official said. In the past, on many occasions, staff unions had accused officials in managerial posts of harassing lower-rung officials. There were cases of bus crew taking extreme steps accusing their higher-ups of harassing them at work places.

Trade union members at a rally to mark International Labour Day in Bengaluru. • PTI

## 'Most revenue goes for fuel expense'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Everyone is feeling the pinch when it comes to skyrocketing fuel prices, including State-run transport corporations.

**Drop in revenue**

Anbu Kumar, KSRTC MD, said that during the pre-COVID times, the KSRTC was generating over ₹10 crore revenue a day, which has dropped to ₹8 crore. Over 70% of the revenue generated goes towards the consumption of fuel, he added.

"The corporation is in severe financial distress. The staff should join hands to strengthen the organisation," he said.

## Summer camp at Bannerghatta Biological Park

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bannerghatta Biological Park is organising a three-day summer camp in two batches. The first batch will be held from May 4 to 6 and the second from May 11 to 13. Students aged between 10 and 18 are eligible. Call 9739963465 or mail to educationbbp@gmail.com.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public are hereby notified that our client Mr. Madappa N S/o Mr. Muniraj have lost original sale deed Dated 24.09.2002, Bearing Document No. 4058/2002-03, Book-1, stored in CD No. ANKL SR.11/2002-03, registered at the office of the Sub-registrar, Anekal pertaining to the property bearing No. 57, Janjuru No. 34, situated at Sabamangalada Kempegowda Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk measuring 40'36, in all measuring 1200 Square feet and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by: Property belonging to Papamma, North by : site No. 56 and South by : Site No.58. In this regard a Police Complaint dated 30.11.2021, has been filed/lodged by our client with Karnataka State Police in Lost Report No.0180159/2021. If any person/s finds the said document kindly inform the advocate stated herein. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our clients and they shall do so at their own risk.

**C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES**
**Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN** M.A., LL.B.
**Advocates & Legal Consultants**
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845846428

THE HINDU
Text & Context

ABSTRACT

# A new perspective on fertility and income levels

Researchers argue that empirical observations that have guided economists till now no longer hold true, saying the inverse relationship between income levels and fertility has either flattened or reversed

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

"The Economics of Fertility: A New Era," Matthias Doepke, Anne Hannusch, Fabian Kindermann, and Michèle Tertilt, April 2022, NBER Working Paper No. 29948, JEL No. D13,J13,J16

## THE GIST

- Economists have generally explained the inverse relationship between income and fertility as due to the decision among modern households to invest in the quality of children that they raise over the quantity of children they make.
- In their paper, authors argue that there is now a positive rather than a negative or inverse relationship between women's labour force participation rate and fertility levels across many countries.
- Women today get more support from their family, the state, and others when it comes to raising their children. Work conditions may also be better suited to the needs of working mothers.

Economists who study the subject of human fertility have traditionally tried to explain two empirical observations in the real world. One of these empirical observations is the fact that in many countries, there is an inverse relationship between fertility and income levels. That is, as income levels have risen across the world, fertility levels have dropped significantly. In fact, in many countries in the western world, fertility is at below replacement levels at the moment and governments are trying to incentivize people to have more children. The second important empirical observation has been the inverse relationship between women's participation in the labour force and their fertility levels. That is, as women's participation in the labour force has risen over the years there has been a fall in fertility levels.

Economists have generally explained the inverse relationship between income and fertility as due to the decision among modern households to invest in the quality of children that they raise over the quantity of children that they make. In fact, some economists have argued that the decision of households to invest in child quality over child quantity was what helped many countries to build modern economies marked by high productivity. So, according to this view, when many households decided to have fewer kids and also sent these kids to schools to gain various skills over a number of years, for instance, this helped boost the productivity of the economy.

On the other hand, the inverse relationship between women's labour force participation rate and fertility has been explained in terms of the costs involved for women who are employed when it comes to having and raising children. As more women have entered the labour force over the decades, the opportunity cost of bearing and raising children has risen and led many to have fewer children. For example, a working woman has to forego earnings over a considerable period of time when she spends time out of the workforce to have and then raise children.

**Whether it is the 19th century or the 21st century, a woman who is thinking about having children will still factor in the opportunity cost of having a child in terms of lost potential earnings.**

### Women's labour and fertility levels

In "*The Economics of Fertility: A New Era*", researchers Matthias Doepke, Anne Hannusch, Fabian Kindermann, and Michele Tertilt argue that the two empirical observations discussed above that have guided economists till date no longer hold true in large parts of today's world. They argue that the inverse relationship between income levels and fertility has either flattened or reversed in many high-income countries. Even more surprisingly, there is now a positive rather than a negative or inverse relationship between women's labour force participation rate and fertility levels across many countries. That is, even as the participation of women in the labour force has risen there has also been a rise in fertility levels. The researchers argue that there may be various reasons for the drastic change in these empirical observations that have guided mainstream economists for many decades now.

Women today, for instance, get more support from their family, the state, and others when it comes to raising their children. Employment conditions may also be better suited to the needs of working mothers, thus encouraging more working women to have more children. Changes in social norms and support for working mothers may have also helped in the rise in fertility levels at a time when women's participation in the labour force has risen, the researchers say. All these factors together may have helped lower what is known as the "motherhood penalty" that women incur when they choose to work.

### What this means for old theories?

What does this all mean for the old theories that economists used to explain empirical regularities observed in the past? It would be hard to completely dismiss them because the opportunity cost of making and raising children will always have an effect on the decisions made by households. Whether it is the 19th century or the 21st century, a woman who is thinking about having children will still factor in the opportunity cost of having a child in terms of lost potential earnings. Similarly, households' decisions on whether to invest in the quality of children they raise or rather increase or decrease the number of children they have will also have an effect on fertility regardless of the times that we live in. In other words, these are truths that always hold true even though empirical observations may lead us to believe that they don't matter anymore. It may just be that the effect of income levels and labor force participation may be blunted now by other factors such as social norms, family and state support, etc. Also, the influence that societal views on the idea of having children may have on households' decision to have children may be a topic of interest worth exploring by social scientists. After all, it can have a significant effect on the cost that households are generally willing to bear to have and raise children.

THE DAILY QUIZ

## May 2, 2022 is the 101st birth anniversary of one of India's greatest filmmakers, Satyajit Ray. Here's a quiz on Manikda (as he was popularly called) and his creations.

**1** The original publisher of Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India*, this publishing house was established by Dilip Kumar Gupta and also employed Satyajit Ray as a visual designer who went on to design covers for several books including *The Discovery...*, *Pather Panchali* among others. Name the publishing house.

**2** In a tour of London in 1950, Ray claims to have seen 100 odd films over 6 months. But there was one film, which he considered to be a representative of neorealist cinema and and is considered his inspiration for the works he pioneered in India — especially his first directorial film, *Pather Panchali*. Name the Italian film that was ranked the 10th best film of all time by directors in a list prepared for the *Sight and Sound* magazine in 2012.

**3** One of the delightful Ray-created characters on both screen and books, Jatayu makes his mark in the film *Sonar Kella* in his very first scenes. In one of them, Jatayu (played by Santosh Dutta) asks the hero about Feluda's waist and chest size to which he replies, "26 inches". In response, Jatayu says, "Are you a pig?" and then guffaws, drawing smiles from Feluda and his "satellite" Topshe. Whose "nonsense" verse was Jatayu referring to in his rhetorical question?

**4** Which anthology film by Ray marked his entry as a music director, following which he composed the music for all his films later on?

**5** The renowned movie critic, Roger Ebert, had this to say about one of Ray's best films — "Ray's people have genuine emotions and ambitions, like the people next door and the people in Peoria and the people in Kansas City. There is not a person reading this review who would not identify immediately and deeply with the characters in .....". Name this film which is an adaptation of the book *Abataranika* by Narendranath Mitra.

◄ This knife-throwing character from *Joi Baba Felunath*, named Arjun, is played by an actor who, as the story goes, went to Satyajit Ray's house and asked for a chance to act in his films and then went on to essay roles in nine memorable films of his. Name him. • SCREENGRAB FROM YOUTUBE

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

**Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The three essential elements of the art form according to the Natya Shastra and the individual who codified it. **Ans: Nritta, Natya and Nritya. Bharata Muni**

2. The traditional name of Bharatanatyam, and the individual who brought the dance form to the public. **Ans: 'Sadir' and Rukmini Devi Arundale**

3. The dance form which uses Jayadeva's 'Gita Govinda' extensively. **Ans: Odissi**

4. This dance form's name translates to 'dance of the enchantress'. **Ans: Mohiniattam**

5. Sattriya originates from which State. **Ans: Assam**

6. In Kathakali, the Pacha (Green) make-up is used for these type of characters. **Ans: Dhirodatta, the noble-hearted, upright hero**

7. The dance form which has three distinct 'gharanas'. **Ans: Kathak**

8. Giddha, Sammi, and Kikli are folk dances of this State. **Ans: Punjab**

9. The 2 metre statue of Shiva as Nataraja gifted by the Indian government is found in this institute in Europe. **Ans: CERN**

Visual: This folk dance from the eastern part of India. **Ans: Chhau**

**Early Birds: Jharna Kamdar | Pratibha Lohiya | Jatin Tihal | Shruti Balakrishnan | Komal Thakkar**

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

# Is 'flammable' the same as 'inflammable'?

'Inflammable' was borrowed from Latin 'inflammare' meaning 'to set on fire'

S. UPENDRAN

If 'incomplete' is the opposite of 'complete' and 'incapable' is the opposite of 'capable', then logic suggests that 'inflammable should be the opposite of 'flammable'. This, however, is not the case - the two words are used synonymously. Language being a human creation, such things are to be expected, I suppose. Any substance that can catch fire easily can be called flammable or inflammable. Why does the language need two words which mean more or less the same thing? Of the two words, it was 'inflammable' that entered the English language first - early 17th century. It was borrowed from the Latin 'inflammare' meaning 'to set on fire' or 'causing to catch fire'. The prefix 'in' in this Latin word did not mean 'not', but 'to cause to'.

Confusion started when a century or two later, the word 'flammable' entered the English language; for some time, both words were being used synonymously to mean something that can be set fire to. With the passage of time, however, problems resulted because most people had forgotten the etymology of 'inflammable' – that the 'in' in the word did not mean 'not'. As the prefix was causing a lot of confusion about the meaning of inflammable, by the early 20th century 'flammable' began to slowly replace 'inflammable' in all warning labels. The opposite of 'inflammable' and 'flammable' is 'non-flammable'.

**What is the meaning of 'genarian' in 'octogenarian'? What do you call someone who is in his 20s? (TG Krishnamurthy, Hyderabad)**

The 'gen' in 'genarian' is pronounced like the word 'gin', while the following 'a' sounds like the 'air' in 'pair', 'hair' and 'air'. The word is pronounced 'je-NA-ri-en' with the stress on the second syllable. A person who is between the age 80 and 89 is usually referred to as an 'octogenarian'. 'Octo' in Latin means 'eight' and 'genaria' means 'ten times'. Similarly, 'sex' in Latin means 'six'; someone who is in his 60s is called 'sexagenarian'. Here are the other terms frequently used: quadragenarian (40-49), quinquagenarian (50-59), septuagenarian (70-79), nonagenarian (90-99), centenarian (100-109), and supercentenarian (110+).

According to the Britannica Dictionary, someone who is between the age 10 and 19 is called a 'denarian'. Those between the age of 20 and 29 are called 'vicenarian'. A 'tricenarian' is someone in his 30s. Most standard dictionaries, however, do not list these words.

**Which is correct? Mr. & Mrs. or Mrs. & Mr.? (SGA Basha, Chennai)**

Does it really matter? Native speakers of English normally write, 'Mr. and Mrs.'. It is always the man first. In India, many people write 'Mrs. & Mr.'. This is because of our mother tongue influence. When people in our country send invitations to others, it is customary to write '*Smt.* and *Sri.*' on the envelope - the woman always comes first. Within India, it makes no difference whether you write 'Mrs. & Mr.' or 'Mr. & Mrs'. Outside India, it is a different matter altogether. A professor who was teaching in the University of Georgia in the 1980s once received a threatening letter from a student. The police were able to determine that the writer was an Indian because the letter had been addressed to Mrs. and Mr. X!

"Getting old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better." Ingrid Bergman

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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# PSI scam: one of the prime accused surrenders before CID

## Search intensified for 10 more successful candidates who are on the run

KARNATAKA BUREAU
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

Manjunath Melakundi, an Assistant Engineer at the Irrigation Department who was one of the prime accused in the PSI recruitment scam, surrendered before the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Sunday.

Melakundi who was on the run for the last 20 days after the scam came to light surrendered before the CID sleuths at the Aiwan-e-Shahi State Guest House. On April 26, a local court had issued arrest warrants against six accused in the case, including Melakundi.

"I am neither involved in this scam nor was I absconding. I was getting treatment in Mangaluru for the last two weeks," Melakundi told mediapersons before surrendering to the CID.

As per sources in the CID, accused Divya Hagaragi, who had not initially revealed anything about involvement her and others in the scam disclosed some vital information after consistent interrogation. The sources said that she had admitted that a huge amount of money had changed hands. According to her confession, Kashinath, principal of the Gyan Jyoti English Medium School (examination centre) that she ran and where the exam malpractices were reported from, was the mastermind who had planned and executed everything, the sources said, adding that there was an organised network between Kashinath and other accused, including Hagaragi, Rudragouda Patil and Melakundi, they said.

During questioning, the police found that the key players used various sources to help their candidates appearing for the examination. The scam was executed by two teams in different ways. Patil and his associates helped the candidates to write examination using Bluetooth devices and the other team led by Melakundi ensured that the invigilators filled up the candidates' OMR sheets after the exam.

The sources in the CID said that the candidates involved in the scam had rehearsed the entire process several times before the examinations to ensure that nothing would go wrong.

As per the confession made by several accused during interrogation, there can be multiple stakeholders such as police officials, representatives of the candidates and government officials in the scam.

The accused also revealed about Melakundi's involvement in alleged malpractices committed in the recruitment exam for the Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer posts in the past.

The CID officials are, however, not sure about the exact amount of money that was paid by each candidate and shared by the middlemen.

### Training

The CID sources also said Patil and his team had provided special training to their candidates for using Bluetooth devices inside the exam hall. They were also asked to destroy the devices soon after the exam was over. Patil and his team used to stay outside the State during the exam just to be on the safer side and with an intention to assert that they were not in the city or the State when the malpractice was committed.

With the arrest of 12 successful candidates in the PSI recruitment exam scam, officials of the CID on Sunday intensified the search for 10 more candidates who are on the run. These candidates are among the 545 selected candidates and did not appear for questioning despite the summons. These candidates are suspected to have secured the highest marks to clear the exam through illegal means.

On Saturday, CID officials arrested 12 candidates after the probe revealed discrepancies in the OMR sheet and the candidate's copy. After confirmation that they are part of the scam, the CID officials arrested the accused and took them in police custody to find out who helped them fill the OMR sheet after submission and how.

These candidates appeared for the exam in Bengaluru centres.

With their arrest, the scam has also spread to Bengaluru centres and the CID is likely to arrest more persons, including examiners and invigilators.

# Holiday: Confusion over board exam leaves students, schools jittery

SUDHINDR A.B.
BENGALURU

Students, parents, and school managements were left confused and jittery over the date of the official holiday for Id-ul-Fitr, which was eventually declared for Tuesday.

The source of their worry was that students of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X were to appear for Term-2 Home Science paper and Class 12 students for Term-2 Hindi Elective and Core papers on Monday. The CBSE took a decision to go ahead with the exam as per earlier schedule.

### 26 other countries

Sanyam Bharadwaj, Controller of Examination, CBSE, said that the exams were held not only in India but also in 26 other countries. 'So, there is no change in the exam schedule in Karnataka. Even in Khargone (Madhya Pradesh) where curfew is imposed, the district administration is conducting the exam," he said. An official at the CBSE Regional Office, Bengaluru, said that they have sent letters to schools with an appeal to cooperate with the board. "We decided to hold the exams as per the original schedule. Exams for these papers are held in only a few centres in Bengaluru region," he said.

Students of ICSE (Class X) will appear for mathematics paper and ISC (Class XII) for English - Paper 2 on Monday. Convener ICSE, Bengaluru B. Gayethri Devi also said the exams would go ahead as planned.

Anushree, who was to take mathematics exam on Monday, said that such confusion a day before the exam was highly disturbing. "Mathematics is a core subject and an important paper. Any change in schedule will impact my preparation," she said.

Prakash, a parent, had been calling various sources for most part of the day to know the status. "I have applied for leave and come all the way from Chennai to be with my daughter and to give her confidence. Can't the authorities concerned look into the holiday list of all the States before finalising the exam schedule? If the authorities are unsure of holidays, they shouldn't hold exams during that period," he said.

### Closed banks

If this was the plight of students and parents, school managements had to confront another issue. It is the norm that the question papers are kept in the safe lockers of banks. The principal or a person appointed by the school will have to collect the question papers an hour before the start of the exam. Principals were worried about the closure of banks. In Karnataka, banks are closed on Monday and Tuesday. It was later informed that school authorities will have to request respective branch managers to keep banks open to collect the question papers.

# Id to be celebrated tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Id-ul-Fitr that marks the culmination of the holy month of Ramzan will be celebrated across the State on Tuesday.

A release from the Moon Sighting Committee in Bengaluru said that the moon was not sighted in Bengaluru and other districts of Karnataka due to heavy rain. It said that the moon was not sighted anywhere in India. The meeting was chaired by Hazrat Moulana Sagheer Ahmed Khan Rashadi, convener of the committee.

Sources said that the decision of the committee will now be communicated to the State Government for declaration of a holiday. Earlier, owing to confusion about the moon sighting, the State Government on Saturday declared Monday as the holiday for Id even before the committee could meet and decide on the day of the festival.

# Rajshekhar Mansur dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Rajshekhar Mansur, classical singer and former professor of English, passed away in Bengaluru on Sunday. He was 80 and was ailing for sometime. He leaves behind wife and three daughters.

Rajshekhar Mansur was the son of the legendary Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur. He joined the English Department in Karnataka University and retired as professor. He was also a singer of repute. He had been trained by his father. He presented Hindustani classical performances on All India Radio and some music festivals.

The last rites were conducted in Bengaluru. He was the winner of Karnataka Rajyotsava and Karnataka Sangeet Natak Academy awards.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

MONDAY, MAY. 02
RISE 05:59 SET 18:35
RISE 06:53 SET 19:56

TUESDAY, MAY. 03
RISE 05:58 SET 18:35
RISE 07:37 SET 20:48

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 04
RISE 05:58 SET 18:35
RISE 08:22 SET 21:40

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 33 | 25 |
| Mysuru | 35 | 22 |
| Bengaluru | 35 | 23 |

**Bengaluru Today**
35°C The weather will bevery warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower to occur.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
34°C A warm and uneasy weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. Thunderstorm may occur.

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**BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

1. On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works.

| NIT No | Name of the work | Estimated cost (Rs.) | EMD (Rs.) | Period of completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MCF/CMG/HieTN-01/2022-23 Dtd. 29.04.2022 | Modification works in Harsha VSH at Mainland, MCF Hassan (Civil, PH & Electrical Works). | 18,91,785/- | 37,836/- | 03 Months |
| MCF/CMG/HieTN-02/2022-23 Dtd. 29.04.2022 | Civil & Electrical Works at SCES 10 in New Land at MCF-Hassan. | 153,64,886/- | 3,07,300/- | 02 Months |

Period during which the tender document can be downloaded : From 02.05.2022 10:00 Hrs. to 09.05.2022 17:00 Hrs
Period for Bid clarification: From 02.05.2022 10:01 Hrs. 10.05.2022 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date and time of reply to Bid clarifications : 11.05.2022 17:30 Hrs.
Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 12.05.2022 17:00 Hrs.
Due date & time of opening of tenders : On 17.05.2022 from 11:30 Hrs. onwards

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.isro.gov.in. The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. All corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in news papers. Bidders may regularly visit the website for any updates.

Division Head, CCMD-CMG

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(E-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids pertaining to BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru for the following works:

**No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-98(9)/22-23/868-71 Date:30.04.2022**

1) Enquiry No.KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-31/Call-3 dated: 15.02.2022 for "Replacing existing Tower No 33 by NB Tower of DC Peenya – Hebbala 1 & 2 line at Mathikere area for increasing vertical clearance coming under the jurisdiction of Rajajinagar TLM Sub-Division, TL & SS Division SRS Peenya.

**No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F-103(20)/22-23/902 Date: 30.04.2022**

2) Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/22-23/EPR-05 dated 30.04.2022 for "Work of Strengthening of Earth Mat at 66/11kV Nandini Layout.

The detailed notification rearding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'eProcurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 04.05.2022 (for Sl No 1) & 05.05.2022 (for Sl No.2).

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec, Tr(M), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru – 560009. Phone: 22386686-85.**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(e-procurement mode only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

**I.No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-452/22-23/791-93 Date: 29.04.2022**

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/ SEE/ Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-1/CALL-02 Dated: 01.04.2022** for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 31.5 MVA, 66/ 11KV, ECE Industries Ltd make, Sl. No. S-86051 year of manufacture 2008 Lying at 66/11kV BTM 4th phase Sub-station on Total Turnkey Basis.

**II.No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-154/Packages/22-23/798-803 Date: 29.04.2022**

Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/Shift/EPR-02 to EPR-16 Dated: 29.04.2022** for tender for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 220kV/66/ 11kV and 66/11KV stations **(Package-1 to 15)**, in the jurisdictions of BMAZ South Circle.

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging onto **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-Procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **02.05.2022.**

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **KAVITA** Holabasappa Beragi, W/O. Shivaraj Hanchin, R/O. 3730, Shivagowri Nilaya, Durga Talkies Rd, Vijaya Nagar 1st Cr, Hirekerur, Haveri 581111, have changed name to Kavita Shivaraj Hanchin vide afdvt dtd 27/04/22

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

In the Court of the IIIrd Addl. District Judge :: Nellore, A.P. State
A.S.No.47/2019
**Tada Ravikumar** ...Appellant
Vs
1) Nandipalli Rajamma
2) Gangavarapu Narayana Reddy ...Respondents
To, **NOTICE**
**R2: Gangavarapu Narayana Reddy** S/o. Venkataswamy Reddy, resident of D.No.100, Kammagunda Halli Jalahalli, West Bangalore, Karnataka State.
Please take notice that the above appeal has been posted on 06-05-2022 for your appearace. you shall present before the Honb'le Court at 10.30 A.M. either personally or through your advocate. otherwise the above appeal will be decided exparte. Hence communicated accordingly.
**V.Sankara Narayana.,** B.Com., BL., Advocate for the Appellant, Nellore

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE**
IN THE REGULATORY AUTHORITIES OFFICE AP RERA :VIJAYAWADA ,ANDHRA PRADESH
**CP No.15 / 2022**
**Between :**
KanaparthiAarogyam,W/o.Gundala Prakash Neelakantham, R/o. D.No. 4-23-7,Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Opp: Men's Medical Hostel, Amaravathi Road, Guntur Dt. ......Applicant
AND
Yarlagadda Krishna Rao & Others. ....Respondents
To
R-1:Yarlagadda Krishna Rao,S/o. Lakshmi Narayana (Late). Managing Partner, Developer of Athidi Builders, Vijayawada.R/o.F.No.G1,H.No.42, Srinivasa Apartments, 2nd Main, 2nd Sector, NOVO Nagar Layout Bangalore-560076, Karnataka State. Presently residing at:- R/o.Near, Bharath Gas Godown, Doctors Layout, Bannerughatta, Anekal, Bangalore-562106, Karnataka State.
R-2:Kaluvayi Swarna Kumar Reddy, S/o.Narasimha Reddy.Managing Partner, Developer of Athidi Builders, Vijayawada, R/o.Chinnagopavaram (V),Gopavaram(M),Y.S.R Kadapa Dt.-516233.
R-3:Bodepudi Jayanth(Raja), S/o. Venkata Rao, R/o. 5th floor, Sai Athidi Nivas, Near Narayana College, Velpur Road, Gudavalli(V), Vijaya Wada Rural-521104,Krishna Dt. ...Respondents
The above named applicant filed the above petition against the respondents for cancellation of agreement of sale and recovery of the agreement amount. The above said matter stands posted **20-05-2022** for appearance of respondents. Hence we are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble authority on the day at **10-30 AM** either in person or through an advocate, failing which the above matter will be decided setting you exparte. Hence informed.
**Hearing Date:20-05-2022.**
**Dr. SAYYED BABU SHAIK,** LL.M,Ph.D
**Advocate for Petitioner,**
Beside Andhra Bank, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004. Mobile: 9985179494.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
TAKE NOTICE that My Clients **Mr. K. Mohan and Mr. K.R. Venkatesh** Intending to purchase the schedule property morefully described in the SCHEDULE from its owners Mr. Hanumanthappa and others residing at Shettigere Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
If any persons, entity, firm, institution, (corporate or otherwise), any local bodies, National / State Highway Authorities, Gram Panchayath, Central Government Authorities or State Government Authorities, or any State organization have any claims, any right, title interest, pending litigation or demands of any nature in or upon the schedule property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of right, title interest claim pending litigation or demands made together with supporting documents within **15 days** from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been waived and or given up and my clients will proceed to complete sale transaction in respect of the schedule property. Objections or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my clients.
**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
All that piece and parcel agricultural land to the extent of 0-15 guntas (Fifteen Guntas) guntas in Survey No.43/2 and 0.08 guntas (eight guntas in Survey No.43/4, Totally measuring 0-23 guntas ('Twenty Three guntas) situated SHETTIGERE VILLAGE, Jala Hobli, Yalahanka Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the East by Land bearing Survey No.43/5 belongs to T.Narayanappa, West by Land bearing Survey No.43/1 belongs to Chikkamunishamappa, North by Land bearing Survey No.38 belongs to Chikkamunishamappa and South by Land bearing Survey No.44.
**B.S. RANGANATHA**, Advocate
# 54/3, Sri Krishnarajendra Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.
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Bangalore, Date: 29.4.2022

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E-Tenders are invited (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) for the supply,installation and commissioning tender for supply, fire and safety equipments and fire hydrant lines at premises of the company and KSBC godowns (Tender ID 2022_TSC_488146_1).And Tender for Maintenance of 6 Nos of Mild Steel Tanks At Molasses Storage Area (50,000 BL Capacity For Each Tank ) After Rerouting Spirit Lines Inside Molasses Storage Area (Tender ID 2022_TSC_488508_1). The last date of submission 10.05.2022 at 3.00 pm. For details Contact Office/Website
Thiruvalla,29.04.2022 (sd/-)MD

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
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| 151 TO 225 | 29.04.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 30.04.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 226 TO 300 | 02.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 04.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 301 TO 375 | 05.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 06.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 376 TO 448 | 06.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 07.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 449 TO 520 | 07.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 09.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 521 TO 595 | 09.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 10.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 596 TO 670 | 10.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 11.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 671 TO 743 | 11.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 12.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 744 TO 814 | 12.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 13.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 815 TO 888 | 13.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 16.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 889 TO 961 | 16.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 17.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |
| 962 TO 1036 | 17.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST | 18.05.2022 ; 6.00 pm IST |

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■ R. W. ALEXANDER JESUDASAN

Though dual degree programmes have been on the anvil since 2012, they are expected to come to fruition this year, thanks to the impetus given by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Many universities have been offering such programmes for quite some time at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. With Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Learning (OL) modes having been granted clearance by the UGC and AICTE, it is now possible to consider dual degrees in India.

**Regulations**

The UGC has approved the guidelines for dual degree programmes from the coming academic year. In order to facilitate this and to cope with the problem of limited seats in some courses, higher education institutes have started offering select programmes through ODL and OL modes. In its recent communication, the UGC has said that students can either register for another degree and pursue it physically without any clash with the first-degree programme or opt for ODL/OL mode for the second degree or do both via the latter mode.

It also said that students can consider doing the dual degree programmes physically through the two-shift system already in vogue or from two different institutions based on their proximity. The modalities will have to be worked out by the concerned institutions.

What's more, students for dual degrees can consider institutions from India and abroad, which meet the stipulated standards. Further, dual degrees are not mandatory; they are only an option for highly motivated students.

**Viable combinations**

While the choice of core subjects is left to the student depending on interest, this should be based on the resources available with the institution. A reasonable analytical approach is required to make this programme viable. Students could choose a second degree either from a discipline related to the first or it could be totally unrelated.

At the UG level, Psychology and Allied Health Sciences; Psychology and Teacher Training; Economics and Business; Economics and Informatics; Commerce and ERP; International Relations and a foreign language; Maths and Machine Learning; and any UG degree with Sports/Performing Arts/Allied Health Programmes are combinations that may be relevant now. Suitable ones will be identified for the future based on the need.

**Benefits**

Students will get wide exposure across universities, industries and corporate sectors. Upgradation of knowledge and skills is now possible with the ODL/OL mode and periodic refresher courses. Adopting the dual degree method will also help reach out to more students and also attract foreign students to India. This, in turn, is expected to enhance the ranking of institutions both nationally and internationally.

**Challenges**

A dual degree programme may seem arduous and a source of stress to students as it involves double the amount of work. There may also be scope for a feeling of inadequacy when people doing single and dual degree programmes are in the same classroom.

Institutions that are going to adopt the two-degree programme have to get them approved by the Academic Council or appropriate statutory bodies. They also have to tweak or improve the amenities wherever required. Further, admission procedures will have to be amended suitably with regard to the submission of various documents. End-semester exam schedules may also have to be drawn up so that students are not put to any difficulty.

The writer is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science, (Deemed to be University), Padur, Chennai

## ETCETERA

■ **Books distributed**

The Chennai Government Schools Chief Education Officer S. Mars took the initiative to distribute Angilam Arivome Volume 1 & 2, a special publication from The Hindu Group, to 4000 children in Class 9 across 38 schools, as a part of English Language development programme. The books were sponsored by JK Foundation. School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Chepauk MLA Udayanidhi Stalin and MP Dayanidhi Maran distributed the books to students of The Lady Willingdon High School, Triplicane.

■ **PGP in Data Science and Finance**

Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics (MDAE) invites applications for a one-year postgraduate programme in Data Science and Finance. Graduates from any stream with minimum 50% or equivalent score can apply. The admission process will include an entrance test and personal interview. Last date to apply is May 31. To apply, visit https://bit.ly/3JJKe6g

■ **SNU Chennai opens admissions**

Shiv Nadar University Chennai has opened admissions for its undergraduate programmes – B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science; B.Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering (Cyber Security); B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering (Internet of Things); B.Com / B.Com (Hons); B. Com (Professional Accounting); B.Sc. Economics (Data Science) – for the academic year 2022-23. Last date to register is May 22. For details, visit https://www.snuchennai.edu.in/

■ **HITS announces dates for entrance exams**

Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS) has announced the dates for HITSEEE 2022, its online engineering exam, and HITSCAT 2022, the online entrance exam for Liberal Arts and Allied Sciences, School of Law and other programmes. Visit apply.hindustanuniv.ac.in for further details.

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# Political circles abuzz on the eve of Shah's visit

## B.L. Santhosh holds marathon meetings at party State office

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party circles were abuzz with political activity on Sunday on the eve of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's arrival to the State on Monday night.

B.L. Santhosh, BJP national general secretary (Organisation), held a series of marathon meetings at the party State office. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel and senior leaders were closeted with him for over two hours on Sunday evening.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Santhosh speaking at a party meeting, reportedly gave examples of leadership change in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, which set political circles abuzz of a possible leadership change in the State too. Mr. Bommai, speaking at an event saying his relationship with a seer would be the same whether "he was in power or not", also led to speculations through the day. Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said BJP

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in the State on Monday.

was trying to replace Mr. Bommai because he was not from the RSS stables. However, party sources denied such speculations.

Party sources said Mr. Santhosh focused on revamping the party organisation mechanism ahead of the Assembly polls. "The meetings focused on formulation of strategy and planning campaigns for the next one year. He asked us to revitalise page *pramukhs* across the State, who will play a key role in the upcoming Assembly polls," a senior party office-bearer said.

Mr. Shah who will arrive in the city on Monday night will be here on Tuesday, on an official visit to attend the Khelo India University Games. However, he will also address a party office-bearers meeting. This will be his second visit in a month. His first was closely followed by BJP national president J.P. Nadda leading the State executive meeting.

A party strategist said as the Central BJP leadership has visibly taken charge of preparation for the upcoming elections, and a "major rehaul of the Government and the party organisation" in the State was definitely on the cards. Mr. Kateel also completes his term as party State unit chief next month.

With the Chief Minister recently saying he would discuss Cabinet reshuffle/expansion when Mr. Shah will be in the State, intense lobbying is on to secure a berth in the Cabinet. "There will likely be a Cabinet reshuffle with three to four persons dropped and new faces inducted before May 15," a senior party functionary said.

# Border issue: HDK slams Maharashtra Deputy CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Terming Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's statement – extending his Government's support for merger of Maratha-speaking areas in Karnataka with Maharashtra – as "immature and arrogant", the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday said such statements will hurt federal spirit in the country.

"Mr. Pawar is showing the aggressive nature shown by the Chinese. His brain must be working backwards if he is still speaking about border issues even after 75 years of country's independence," Mr. Kumaraswamy tweeted on Sunday.

The former Chief Minister's response came after statements made by Mr. Pawar in Pune during the Maharashtra Day celebrations on Sunday.

H.D. Kumaraswamy

**'Dead issue'**

Reminding Mr. Pawar that several Kannada-speaking areas are part of Maharashtra, Mr. Kumaraswamy said that a dead issue is being flagged for political gains, and it is better to shed the aggressive posture. "Instead of propagating harmonious relationship between the two linguistic groups speaking Kannada and Marathi, these statements are being made to mislead people. Mr. Pawar is not interested in development issues in his State."

Stating that such statements affect federal structure and unity of the country, the former Chief Minister accused political dispensations in Maharashtra of ignoring development works in the border areas for political reasons. He said: "I took the historical decision to construct Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi due to the interference of Maharashtra politicians, including Ajit Pawar, who used a Maharashtra politician serving as Union Home Minister (Shivaraj Patil) in the UPA government in 2006."

## CORRIDORS OF POWER

**Differences on PSI exam**

Two top leaders of the State Congress have been expressing their differences on various issues, in the latest instance on the police sub-inspector examination scam.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah had different views on scrapping the results of the examination held October last, following the scam. Mr. Shivakumar opposed the decision to annul the results of the examination before the completion of the Criminal Investigation Department probe. Injustice was meted out to 54,289 candidates who wrote the examination, he said, while listening to the grievances of candidates who met him on Saturday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, on the other hand, defended the Government's decision to annul the result of a scam-tainted examination held to recruit 545 police sub-inspectors.

However, he argued that the BJP-led dispensation has acknowledged the scam and if the PSI exam is re-conducted under the "inefficient" Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, it will not be a surprise if the new incoming PSIs are also inefficient and corrupt.

**Will panel check hate speeches?**

Karnataka has been witnessing a spate of communal flare-ups for the last couple of months. In a damage control exercise, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai (*in picture*) mooted the proposal of forming a committee to control hate speeches in accordance with instructions of the Supreme Court. The apex court in its judgments said that hate speech is an attack on dignity in the "matter of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship" and threatens the unity of the nation as a whole. The court reminded authorities in power that the Preamble to the Constitution consciously puts together fraternity, assuring dignity of the individual, and the unity and integrity of the nation.

Mr. Bommai acknowledged that hate speeches are on the rise across the country, especially on social media platforms.

"The Supreme Court orders will be followed and a committee will be constituted to control hate speeches," he said. The State has witnessed hate and communal tensions starting from January when hijab row broke out to recent communal violence in Hubballi. With elections just a year away, the moot question is if the committee will indeed succeed in controlling hate speeches. Especially when powers that be are the fountainhead of hate speeches.

**Iftars and politics**

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (*in picture*) has been hosting Iftars during Ramzan in Mysuru over the last few years barring the recent years when COVID-19 restrictions were in place for large gatherings. With COVID-19 cases few and far between this year, Mr. Siddaramaiah resumed his Iftar this Ramzan by hosting dinner at a function hall in Mysuru.

The JD(S), which has in recent weeks been trying hard to burnish its

"secular" credentials and shed the tag of being "B team" of the BJP, clearly did not wish to miss an opportunity to host an Iftar. Soon, an Iftar was hosted by former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. What's more, it was at the same venue where the Congress had held its Iftar.

NAGESH PRABHU
LAIQH A. KHAN

## *Birthday greetings*

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar with veteran politician S.M. Krishna on his birthday at his residence in Bengaluru on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# State signs $3 billion deal to set up semiconductor fab plant

## This will have potential to generate jobs to 1,500 people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Sunday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel-based ISMC Analog Fab Pvt. Ltd. for setting up semiconductor fab plant at a cost of ₹22,900 crore ($3 billion) in the State over the next seven years.

One among the biggest proposals in the recent times, the $3 billion investment will have the potential to generate direct employment to 1,500 people.

The MoU was signed by Additional Chief Secretary, IT/ BT, E.V. Ramana Reddy for Karnataka and Director of ISMC Ajay Jalan in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. As per the MoU, Karnataka would facilitate ISMC Analog to obtain necessary permissions, registrations, approvals, clearance and incentives among others from departments concerned as per the prevailing rules and policies.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bommai said that a major MoU has been signed when many other States are competing to draw investments in semiconductor fab sector. The MoU has provided for technology and cultural exchange between Israel and India, he added.

> **A major MoU has been signed when many other States are competing to draw investments in semiconductor fab sector. The MoU has provided for technology and cultural exchange between Israel and India.**
>
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

The Chief Minister pointed out that Karnataka was the first state to come up with a semiconductor policy in 2008-2009. "However, ecosystem was not conducive. It also could happen despite the policy because there was an absence of an able leadership at the centre and no action plan." He also said that the current situation where China's policy on semiconductor had turned the heat was also responsible.

Mr. Bommai said that Karnataka government understands that it is not just the concessions or incentives, it is the conducive ecosystem that is needed to draw the investors. He said: "This is going to be a successful venture and bigger the venture means bigger challenges. But do not worry about the challenges and those challenges can be turned into opportunities. We will do it (project) in a bigger scale and I expect the research and development also to take place in Karnataka."

Mr. Bommai said that he had already intimated the Centre about the developments, and that the Centre was also looking at one or two more companies in different sector of semiconductor to invest in India.

The ISMC has requested 150 acres of land in Mysuru's Kochanahalli Industrial area, and will be one of India's first and largest semiconductor units under the Centre's India Semiconductor Mission once the project is approved by the Centre. It is likely to generate about 10,000 indirect employment opportunities and ancillary semiconductor ecosystem industry development in the area with significant multiplier effect.

Higher Education and IT/ BT Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan was also present.

# 60 industrial projects worth ₹2,465 cr. cleared

## They are likely to generate 8,575 jobs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Government has approved 60 industrial projects worth ₹2,465.94 crore that would generate jobs for over 8,575 people in the State.

The 131st State-level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries Murugesh R. Nirani on Saturday evening cleared these projects, according to an official release.

**Approved**

The committee approved 10 important large and medium industrial projects with investment of more than ₹50 crore. These projects worth ₹1,522.33 crore are expected to create employment opportunities for 3,190 persons in the State.

Also, at the 131st SLSWCC meeting, 49 new projects with investment in the range of ₹15 crore to ₹50 crore each were cleared. And these projects worth ₹938.61 crore would generate jobs for 5,385 people in the State. One more project worth ₹5 crore investments was also approved. Total 60 projects with investments of ₹2,465.94 crore with employment potential for 8,575 people were cleared.

The SLSWCC in its meeting on March 5 cleared 48 industrial projects worth ₹2,062.21 crore with employment potential for 6,393 people. The State Government had also cleared industrial projects worth ₹11,495.4 crore with the potential of creating over 46,984 jobs during the 58th State High Level Clearance Committee meeting held on April 18.

# 'Ischoolappa' released in honour of former CJ

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ischoolappa, a book to felicitate former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice M. Ramakrishna, was released in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai released the book, which was brought out to honour him on the occasion of his 86th birth anniversary.

The Chief Minister hailed Justice Ramakrishna's achievement in legal sector as he went on to occupy a key post coming from a difficult background. More than anything else, he remained unscathed throughout his career, he said. Hailing him for working in a challenging atmosphere in J&K, the Chief Minister described him as an asset of the State as well as legal fraternity.

Nidumamidi Mutt seer Veerabhadra Chennamalla Swami and Karnataka High Court judge and Justice Ramakrishna's son R. Devadas were also present.

# Compassionate jobs: State Govt. clarifies definition of family

## Asks depts. to consider children of second wife or second wife not legally married

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

In a significant decision taken on the definition of family to provide employment on compassionate grounds to a member of the deceased government employee, the State Government has decided to consider for employment the children of second wife, who is not legally married.

The circular, coming into effect immediately, was issued to clarify on the matter on Saturday by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms and is based on Supreme Court order on February 24, 2022.

The employment in Government on compassionate grounds is determined by Karnataka Civil Services (Recruitment on Compassionate grounds) Rules of 1996 to provide employment to one person from the family of deceased. While the rule 3 determines the qualification, the rule 2 defines family that includes wife, husband, son and daughter.

It said that several departments had sought clarification on providing compassionate employment to the children of second wife of the deceased, and also the second wife, not legally married. The DPAR said that it had reviewed the existing definition of the family and has directed the departments to consider children out of such relationships for employment on compassionate grounds.

The circular said that to discriminate children borne from second wife, or of a wife not legally wedded construes to be violation of article 16 (2) of the Indian constitution. The circular referring to the recent SLP in Supreme Court, pointed out to earlier observations made by the Apex Court and Delhi High Court in such matters.

The circular said that the Delhi High Court had observed that one's descent is beyond one's control and hence should not become a ground of state sanctioned disadvantage. It also pointed out to High Court order, which observed that it is an established fact that the children of 'second' wives whether counted as illegitimate or legitimate have often suffered severe social disadvantage and legitimacy cannot be ground for denial of public employment.

Further, the circular quoted parts of an earlier Supreme Court observation in which the Apex Court has said that it would be impermissible to exclude such children from being considered for compassionate employment.

The DPAR has said that while such cases should be considered, it has asked departments to follow other rules that are currently being followed.

# High Court fiat on levy of advertisement tax

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declared that there is no conflict between the power to levy GST under Goods and Services Act and the power of municipal corporations in the State to levy advertisement fee or advertisement tax under Section 134 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by Hubballi-Dharwad Advertisers' Association, and several advertising agencies.

The petitioners had claimed that collection of advertisement of tax by Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation after commence of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act amounts to double taxation and hence the corporation cannot impose advertise tax or fee on the advertising agencies for permitting advertisement hoardings.

However, the court said that the incidence of advertisement tax or advertisement fee is on the license granted by the corporation permitting the petitioner to put up hoarding or make use of the hoardings, this incidence of advertisement tax or fee has nothing to do with supply or service or goods by the petitioner to its clients to put up their advertisement on such hoardings.

Pointing out that the transaction with the corporation is for the permission or license granted to put up hoarding and or use a hoarding either on the land belonging to the corporation or on the land belonging to a private party, the court said that it is "an independent and distinct transaction" and does not amount to double taxation.

"The GST as stated above is levied on any supply of goods or services. The petitioners carrying on advertisement business it is during the course of the said business that the petitioner is required to collect GST from any of its/their clients and remit it to the authorities. It is not that the petitioners are making payments of GST out of their own pockets," the court observed.

# Brigadier Shalabh Gupta takes charge

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Brigadier Shalabh Gupta on Saturday assumed charge as Commandant, Madras Engineer Group and Centre, Bengaluru.

According to a release, Brigadier Gupta has an experience of 30 years spread over varied operational and instructional tenures. Brigadier TPS Wadhawa, Commandant, Madras Engineer Group and Centre, who relinquished the appointment of Commandant, after serving two years and eight months on Saturday, handed over the charge to Brigadier Gupta.

**TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD**
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(E-Submission Short term)

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| Fund | JJM Fund 2021-2022 |
| Eligibility | Registered Class I Contractors (Civil) |
| Tender Invitee | The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Integrated Office Complex, First Floor, No.243/2, Thanjavur-Trichy Main Road, Pillayarpatty,Thanjavur-613 403. |
| Sale of Bid | **05.05.2022 to 19.05.2022 upto 17.45 hours (as per server time)** |
| Available website | E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in.** |
| EMD Payable at | Sl.No. 1 & 2 : Executive Engineer,TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Trichy |
| Pre Bid meeting | **13.05.2022** at **11.00** hours at the office of the CE,TWAD Board, Thanjavur |
| Bid Submission | **20.05.2022** upto **15.00** hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering portal **www.tntenders.gov.in** |
| Bid opening | **23.05.2022** at **15.30** hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering Portal |

| Sl. No. | Name of work | Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore including GST) | Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Retrofitting for the following CWSS in Trichy district under JJM 2021-2022** | | |
| 1. | CWSS to Thumbalam and 26 other habs.Thathaiyengarpettai (Construction period : 9 months and Free Maintenance : 3 months) | **Rs.11.24** | **Rs.8.50** |
| 2. | CWSS to 43 habs.in Lalgudi and Pullambadi union (Construction period : 9 months and Free Maintenance : 3 months) | **Rs.10.60** | **Rs.7.95** |

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

**G. NANDAGOPAL**
Born 26.12.1945 Died 02.05.2021
"You live in our hearts forever"
Fondly remembered by:
G. Kanmani - wife, G.Prakash, G. Hariharan, M.Sujatha
9884795879, 98402 24759

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

**PREMA RAJAGOPAL**
Date of Death : 02.05.2015
"You are always with us"
Fondly remembered by
K. Rajagopal, Meenakshi & Raghu Sudha & Praveen, Radhika & Gopinath and Grandchildren.

## IN BRIEF

### Vijay Babu to stay away from AMMA temporarily

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Malayalam film producer and actor Vijay Babu will temporarily stay away from the executive committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) in light of the rape allegations levelled against him by a young female actor. The AMMA executive committee, which met on Sunday to take a decision on the possible action against the accused actor, has accepted his request.

### Two youth, minor held on rape charge in A.P.

VIJAYAWADA

The Repalle town police in Vijayawada arrested two persons and took into custody a juvenile, who allegedly raped a woman in the local railway station on Saturday. The accused, P. Vijaya Krishna and P. Nikhil, and a minor resorted to the crime, the police said. Police said around 1 a.m., the accused approached the victim's husband, picked up an argument and beat him up. When the woman pleaded that her husband be spared, the accused pulled her aside and raped her.

### Minister consoles kin of murdered YSRCP activist

TIRUMALA

Home Minister Taneti Vanitha on Sunday consoled the family members of YSRCP activist, Ganji Prasad, who was murdered by some miscreants at G. Kothapalli village in Eluru district on Saturday. Ms. Vanitha visited Prasad's house and consoled his family members. She assured stern action against the culprits. Meanwhile, additional forces were deployed in the village and Section 144 was imposed as the funeral of Prasad was performed on Sunday.

# George struggling to stay afloat in politics

## The latest remark of Kerala's former legislator is a continuation of his rift with a section of Muslims

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM

In his address at the Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan last Friday, former legislator P.C. George ramped up his rhetoric against the Muslim community – a tediously recurring characteristic of his public speeches of late.

The episode, which is the latest in the long list of controversies he has courted in his political life, is widely regarded as the continuation of a widening discord between him and a section of the Muslim electorate since the Parliament elections of 2019.

Using more inflammatory language than many far-right outfits, Mr. George has effectively fashioned a narrative linking Muslims to an uptick in conversion of Christian and Hindu girls and perceived strains on the social fabric of the State. His key themes – from love jihad to Islamic terrorism and rising crimes – have taken up more space in the public discourse of central Kerala in recent years.

P.C. George, held for hate speech, coming out after getting bail, in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. • S. MAHINSHA

Despite the staunch opposition from the ruling coalition as well as the Opposition parties, Mr. George, apparently desperate to remain relevant in the State politics, has continued to ride the widening trust deficit between Christians and Muslims, a concern legitimised by the Catholic church through Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt.

The collision course, however, has not been without setbacks. Having contested as an Independent, Mr. George lost his sitting seat at Poonjar in the Assembly election last year primarily owing to a consolidation of Muslim votes against him.

Prior to the loss, he had to pull back from the election campaign at Erattupetta after being consistently booed and heckled for his anti-Muslim remarks. In view of the stiff opposition, Mr. George issued an unconditional apology and tried moving on. It, however, cut no ice with the protesters who appeared intent on forcing him to eat humble pie.

Having worked with both major splinter groups of the Kerala Congress respectively led by P.J. Joseph and K.M. Mani, Mr. George later floated his own outfit, the Kerala Congress (Secular), which became a constituent of the Left Democratic Front and later merged with the Kerala Congress(M) in 2008. He was expelled from the party in 2016 after he fell out with party leader K.M. Mani.

Later in 2019, he floated another party named the Kerala Janapaksham (Secular), which joined the NDA just ahead of the elections in 2019. The move, which came in the backdrop of the Sabarimala protests led by the Sangh Parivar organisations, backfired and Mr. George exited from the association.

His relationship with the Muslim electorate, however, had already begun to sour by then and it took a turn for the worse when Mr. George allegedly termed the Muslims of Erattupetta as terrorists – a remark he has since denied.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Thundersquall with lightning or gusty winds at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, Kerala, Mahe. Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets likely over West Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | – | 37.2 | 25.6 | Kozhikode | – | 35.4 | 26.5 |
| Ahmedabad | – | 44.0 | 27.1 | Kurnool | – | 43.4 | 30.4 |
| Aizawl | 34.0 | 30.8 | 15.9 | Lucknow | – | 37.4 | 25.0 |
| Allahabad | – | 38.8 | 26.6 | Madurai | – | 39.6 | 27.6 |
| Bengaluru | – | 33.9 | 23.0 | Mangaluru | – | 32.8 | 26.4 |
| Bhopal | – | 42.7 | 27.6 | Mumbai | – | 34.2 | 26.5 |
| Bhubaneswar | – | 34.0 | 28.1 | Mysuru | 32.0 | 37.0 | 19.0 |
| Chandigarh | – | 42.2 | 27.7 | New Delhi | – | 44.6 | 24.8 |
| Chennai | – | 33.7 | 29.0 | Patna | – | 35.6 | 23.4 |
| Coimbatore | – | 34.6 | 25.4 | Port Blair | – | 33.5 | 26.2 |
| Dehradun | – | 37.8 | 23.1 | Puducherry | – | 35.8 | 28.2 |
| Gangtok | – | 20.4 | 13.0 | Pune | – | 39.5 | 22.8 |
| Goa | – | 34.0 | 26.2 | Raipur | – | 43.6 | 27.5 |
| Guwahati | – | 32.1 | 21.8 | Ranchi | – | 36.7 | 22.9 |
| Hubballi | – | 37.0 | 23.0 | Shillong | 15.0 | 20.2 | 13.5 |
| Hyderabad | 6.0 | 41.5 | 24.4 | Shimla | – | 31.0 | 21.1 |
| Imphal | 13.0 | 24.8 | 19.4 | Srinagar | – | 29.0 | 11.8 |
| Jaipur | – | 43.8 | 29.8 | Thiruvananthapuram | – | 32.8 | 26.4 |
| Kochi | 4.0 | 31.4 | 27.6 | Tiruchi | – | 40.7 | 29.0 |
| Kohima | – | 25.8 | 12.6 | Vijayawada | – | 41.8 | 28.0 |
| Kolkata | 14.0 | 34.7 | 22.3 | Visakhapatnam | – | 35.8 | 27.8 |

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** — Yesterday

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 11 | 12 | – | 227 | 142 | |
| Bengaluru | 11 | – | 22 | 79 | 92 | |
| Chennai | 15 | 7 | 104 | 43 | 55 | |
| Delhi | 29 | 66 | 52 | 250 | 367 | |
| Hyderabad | 6 | 71 | 37 | 152 | – | |
| Kolkata | 10 | 101 | 36 | 37 | 62 | |
| Lucknow | 10 | 66 | 65 | 268 | 186 | |
| Mumbai | 7 | 1 | 16 | 210 | 328 | |
| Pune | 26 | 28 | 65 | 89 | 69 | |
| Visakhapatnam | 22 | 42 | 12 | 40 | 93 | |

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 312 indicating a very poor level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

$SO_2$: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

$NO_2$: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Good response to bridge course for medicos displaced from Ukraine

## 511 students from across India respond to JSS Medical College initiative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The bridge course announced by JSS Medical College for medical students displaced from Ukraine due to war and owing to COVID-19 from China, has received overwhelming response within 24 hours of its announcement.

In all, 511 students from across India of which 321 are from Karnataka, have evinced interest and the course is expected to commence during the second week of May. This was stated by Suttur Mutt seer Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji at whose behest the college authorities explored various ways of helping out the war-affected Indian medical students whose studies have been disrupted.

Addressing a press meet here on Sunday, the seer said while the students would be allowed to attend the theory classes and all laboratory facilities would also be open to them for free, they can only observe the patients and would not be authorised to examine them or administer treatment under the prevailing norms of medical education. Apart from Karnataka, students from Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat and other places have also evinced interest and sought admission, which is now closed.

Shivaratri Deshikendra Swami

B. Suresh, Pro Chancellor, JSS Academy of Higher Education, said the bridge course would entail four batches of 125 students each who were studying at various levels in Ukraine and China. "These classes will be tailor made after course mapping so that students are taught the subjects relevant to the curriculum being followed in their respective institutions," said Dr. Suresh.

At the end of the course the duration of which could vary from four weeks to six or even eight weeks depending on the subjects introduced, the students would be issued a certificate with details of the subjects studied and the assessment of the professors at JSS Medical College based on the evaluation of the individual students. But the certificate by itself could not be used to raise legal claims of recognition etc., and the course was only to ensure that the studies were not disrupted, he added.

Dr. Suresh said the world was moving towards a scenario globally wherein students in one place displaced due to natural disasters owing to climate change or other man-made exigencies like war etc., could enroll to continue their education elsewhere. "We at JSS Medical College are preparing ourselves for such a scenario and offering the bridge course as part of JSS India International Initiative", he added.

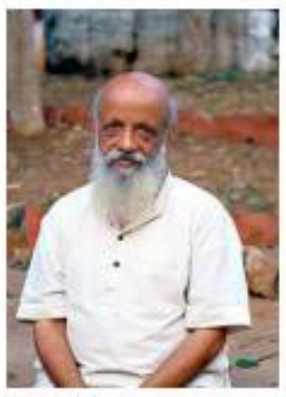
Dr. Surendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor said the bridge course would help bridge the knowledge and skill gap that was occurring due to lack of contact with teachers and access to laboratories. The students were being helped to bridge the gap and though it was only for a period of one month or a little more, based on the feedback there could be a course correction, he added. Besides, subjects which were currently being taught online, would not be covered to prevent overlapping. While the bridge course was being offered for free, students had to make their own arrangements for accommodation, food etc.

# Prasanna to return to theatre with 'Ayodhya Khaand'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Noted theatre personality Prasanna will return to theatre after a gap of almost two decades with *Ayodhya Khaanda*, a play based on the epic Ramayana.

As the first production of his theatre group Navodaya, *Ayodhya Khaanda* will start exhibition from May 5. Written and directed by Mr. Prasanna, the play will be staged at Kirirangamandira from May 5 to 8 at 7 p.m.



Playwright Prasanna • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Prasanna, a well-known playwright, who was working with village crafts during his absence from the field of theatre, has now accepted an invitation to join Navodaya to direct plays.

"We have consciously chosen Ramayana. We believe Rama, Jesus, the prophet, all are being used divisively. Poet Kuvempu had declared long back that Rama is great, but Ramayana is greater. We want to bring this simple, but amazing truth back to the divided society," he said.

Pointing out that Navodaya means renaissance in Kannada, Mr. Prasanna, who had earlier served as Director of Rangayana, said the aim was to initiate a second Renaissance through their work in theatre.

"For, we believe renaissance can only happen through theatre now. The last one that happened in the middle of the last century, happened through literature. And, it happened in all the Indian languages. After the medieval Bhakti movement, it was this movement that helped Indian languages and cultures to flourish. Writers and artists then took a middle path. A path of negotiation. They took positive elements from both tradition and modernity. And whatever they had to reject, they rejected without rancour," he said.

### Indigenous cultures

He pointed out that indigenous cultures all over the world including Indian culture were disintegrating. "If excessive modernisation was destroying them from outside, excessive traditionalism coming as a reaction to it, is destroying them from inside. People are fighting one extreme with the other and with extremity. They are tearing down the social fabric," he said.

He contended that theatre was a community and that cannot happen unless people come together. "We believe that art and labour, knowledge and experience, culture and science, should all go hand in hand. And, thus they should lead us towards wisdom. Today's world is intellectually-driven. Even theatre has become an exercise in intellectuality. But, excessive ideation can either make you quarrel or get depressed. An actor on stage, on the other hand, should keep the audience together and not divide them," he said.

# Mysugar set to reopen in July after prolonged closure

## Work on restoration expected to begin today

SHANKAR BENNUR
MYSURU

The State-owned Mysore Sugar Company Ltd. or Mysugar factory in Mandya, which has been non-operational for a long time, is expected to resume operations in July this year. Established during the rule of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in 1933, the 90-year-old factory had to suspend its operations after facing losses and multiple problems.

After several failed attempts to bring the factory on track, with several private players evincing interest in taking over Mysugar, the Basavaraj Bommai Government announced decision to revive the factory and ₹50 crore was announced in the Budget for its restoration, bringing hope among sugarcane growers in Mandya.

### Minister's visit

Minister in-charge of Mandya district K. Gopalaiah recently visited the factory with senior Government officials and said preparations are on to get the factory resumed between July 15 and 25. The work for keeping the factory ready has been entrusted to two firms and has been given a 60-70-day duration for completing all work linked to its revival. From Monday onwards, the works will commence, the Minister has announced.

The factory's quarters would also be restored as around 250-300 workers would be required for its operations. Other than factory restoration works, electricity and water supply have to be restored besides ensuring basic amenities at the factory site before it gets started again.

The district administration has told officials concerned to ensure 24x7 work at the factory site as the Government is firm to start the operations in July.

The 90-year-old factory had to suspend its operations after facing losses and multiple problems. • FILE PHOTO

"Come what may, the factory would never suspend operations after it's restarted. It must run continuously. In this connection, two committees have been set up - technical and finance - to ensure its smooth functioning. The reports from the administrative, finance and technical committees would be implemented," said the Minister, after the inspection.

Mysugar will also open offices at the hobli-level across Mandya for smooth purchase of sugarcane from farmers.

Minister for Sericulture, Youth Empowerment and Sports Narayana Gowda, who belonged to Mandya, said the machinery repair is key and the Government has released funds for their repair.

Despite the Government's efforts, farmers are sceptical about its operations in July as a lot of work has to be done and it is unlikely that these works, including repair of machinery, would get over by July. Moreover, the Budget allocation done was also scarce.

State Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurubur Shanthkumar said Mysugar's revival will largely help growers in Mandya as they were transporting sugarcane to neighboring districts despite Mandya having factories, including Pandavapura sugar factory whose operations were recently taken over by Nirani Sugars, because of higher output.

### Better management

"The Government must be serious about its smooth running, ending all its problems and ensuring that it is managed better and operations were never stopped like before since the successive Governments spent over ₹500 crore to keep Mysugar moving but it failed to run smoothly," Mr. Shanthkumar said.

Karnataka has about 70 sugar factories and only two or three were run by the Government while the remaining ones were either managed by private ownership or cooperatives. Some of the factory's machinery have outlasted their service as their frequent breakdown impacted productivity, resulting in its losses. The Government must look into these aspects, they suggested. Some growers said the Government should make Mysugar a "model" sugar factory, engaging better practices and introducing modern technology. The promises should not remain on paper, as the government could not run it smoothly in the past, resulting in its collapse, they said.

# Gorge on mangoes, win a prize

## Juicy rivalry between fans of the King of Fruits at a competition in Kozhikode

AABHA RAVEENDRAN
KOZHIKODE

Could there be an art in eating mangoes? It seemed so at the annual mango eating competition organised by the Calicut Agri Horticultural Society as part of its 'Mango Fest'. Ensuring zero wastage is the key, while remaining calm and managing time effectively.

Vijaya Rajagopal, winner of the competition for the 11th consecutive year, would know. Her record of eating 635 grams of mangoes in two minutes left her competitors, including men, far behind.

**Fast and neat:** N.P. Suneendran came first among men in the mango eating contest in Kozhikode on Sunday. • K. RAGESH

For N.P. Suneendran, the winner among men (490 g in two minutes), the mango eating competition is a family event. This is his third year of participation, along with his wife Vahida M., who snared the second prize in the women's category. Ms. Vahida, who came in third in the previous edition of the contest, has swapped that position this year with Shubha K.P., who had bagged second prize in 2021 and stands third among women this year.

Brothers B. Ranjith and B. Sujith from Palakkad, who had travelled from Muthalamada to be a part of the Mango Fest, stood second and third among men, respectively.

Five men and five women participated this year. The contest was held at Gandhi Park here after a two-year gap induced by the pandemic. Each of the participants were given two kg of ripe mangoes. They were given two minutes to finish the fruit, with more supplied, if demanded. At the end of the two minutes, the leftover mangoes were weighed to determine who consumed the most.

The Mango Fest, featuring more than 50 different varieties of mangoes, began on April 28 and will conclude on May 4.

# After a decade, Rahul to visit Gandhi Bhavan

## He will be in Hyderabad on May 6, 7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Congress MP and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi will visit Gandhi Bhavan, the headquarters of Telangana Congress, after more than a decade and his presence at the party office, seniors feel, will give a fillip to the morale of the Congress workers across the State.

Mr. Gandhi will visit the party office on May 7 afternoon to attend the extended executive committee meeting of the Telangana Congress apart from meeting important leaders. TPCC working president Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Mr. Gandhi's presence at the party office will be a big boost to the cadre as many leaders would get an opportunity to meet him. "Psychologically, presence of such leaders at the party offices means a lot," he said.

As per schedule, Mr. Gandhi will arrive in Hyderabad at 4 p.m. by a regular flight and then move to Warangal by helicopter. He is likely to meet the families of farmers who committed suicide at the public meeting venue - Arts College in Warangal. He will later address the farmers' meeting.

On May 7, he will visit the Damodaram Sanjeevaiah statue to pay respects to the late leader.

Mr. Gandhi will later address the TPCC extended Executive Committee meeting at Gandhi Bhavan.

## Ending AFSPA

AFSPA should go entirely because of the impunity it offers armed forces

It augurs well for the future that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the first authentic indication that the operation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) may come to an end in the whole of the north-eastern region, if ongoing efforts to normalise the situation bear fruit. Mr. Modi's remark that a good deal of work is being done in that direction, not only in Assam but also Nagaland and Manipur, may be rooted in his keenness to demonstrate the level of progress achieved in the region under his regime; but it will bring immense relief to the citizens, nevertheless. Areas notified as 'disturbed areas' under AFSPA have been progressively reduced in the last few years, mainly due to the improvement in the security situation. About a month ago, the Union Home Ministry reduced such notified areas considerably in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. There was a substantial reduction in Assam, where AFSPA was removed entirely in 23 districts and partially in one. In Nagaland, after the removal of the law from 15 police stations in seven districts, it remains in areas under 57 police stations, spread across 13 districts. Areas under 82 police stations are still notified under the Act in Manipur, even though 15 police station areas were excluded from the notification from April 1. Mr. Modi, who spoke at a 'peace, unity and development rally' in Diphu in Assam last week, cited "better administration" and the "return of peace" as the reasons for the removal of AFSPA in these areas in a region that has seen insurgencies for decades.

AFSPA was revoked in Tripura in 2015 and in Meghalaya in 2018. It is not unforeseeable that other States will also be excluded from its purview at some point of time. It is convenient to link the exclusion of an area from AFSPA's purview with reduction in violence by armed groups, improvement in the security situation and an increase in development activity, but what is important is the recognition that the law created an atmosphere of impunity and led to the commission of excesses and atrocities. It was hardly four months ago that 15 civilians were killed in Mon district in Nagaland in a botched military operation. Therefore, alongside the gradual reduction in the areas under the Act, there should be serious efforts to procure justice for victims of past excesses too. On the political side, it is indeed true that much headway has been made in moving towards a political solution to some of the multifarious disputes in the region, in the form of peace accords, ceasefire and creation of sub-regional administrative arrangements. The removal of AFSPA from the entire region will be an inevitable step in the process. But irrespective of the security situation, AFSPA should not have allowed such impunity to the armed forces.

## Mercury rising

Heatwave deaths must be treated as a disaster that allows compensation by the state

India has been in the grip of what seems like an eternity of heatwaves. April temperatures over northwest and central India are the highest in 122 years. During April 1 to 28, the average monthly maximum temperature over northwest India was 35.9° Celsius and the same over central India was 37.78° C. These averages belie measurements at the district and sub-divisional level where several parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and Maharashtra have seen temperatures inch towards the mid-40s and breach normals. There is little respite expected in May, which is anyway the hottest month, though the India Meteorological Department (IMD) says that while north and west India will continue to sizzle on expected lines, and must likely brace for more heatwaves, the rest of the country is unlikely to see the levels of March and April. A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40° C and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4° C, according to the IMD. The proximate causes for the searing heat are an absence of rain-bearing Western Disturbances, or tropical storms that bring rain from the Mediterranean over north India. Cool temperatures in the central Pacific, or a La Niña, that normally aid rain in India, too have failed to bolster rainfall this year. This is an unusual occurrence.

Despite five Western Disturbances forming in April, none was strong enough to bring significant rain and depress temperatures. The IMD has forecast a 'normal' monsoon or 99% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 87 cm and is expected to forecast the monsoon's arrival over Kerala later in May. On the surface, there is no direct bearing between the intensity of heatwaves and the arrival and performance of the monsoon. In fact, even as northern India baked for want of rain, April saw monthly rainfall break a four-year record with high rainfall in several parts of southern and north-eastern India. May too is expected to see 9% more rain over India than is usual for the month, though it must be kept in mind that base rainfall is so low in this month that it is unlikely to make a mark. While individual weather events cannot be linked to greenhouse gas levels, a warming globe means increased instances of extreme rain events and extended rain-less spells. What is better known is it helps to have disaster management plans in place that help States better deal with heatwaves and their impact on health. The official toll due to heatwaves in the last 50 years is put at over 17,000 people, according to research from the IMD. The heat island effect means urbanisation adds degrees to the already searing conditions; and so, heatwave deaths must be treated as a disaster that merits compensation. Private and public workplaces too must be better equipped to factor heatwave risk.

# Third World War talk that could be hyperbole

Apart from the grave consequences in an unlikely West versus Russia nuclear stand-off, there are other inhibiting factors

M.K. NARAYANAN

Amidst signs of a further escalation in conflict levels, *vis-ā-vis* the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war – and accompanying new rhetoric of an even wider conflagration in the offing – concerns about the possibility of a Third World War have gone up by several notches. During the past few days what is further evident is that both sides seem intent on enlarging the scale of the conflict, rather than trying to end it.

**Battle cry and response**

This past week, the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), buoyed by the perceived success of Ukraine's resistance to Russia's aggression, have further raised the stakes by pledging additional packages of lethal weapons to Ukraine (amounting to several millions of dollars), which the West had, till now, refrained from supplying Ukraine.

Again, in what can only be perceived as a battle cry, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Lloyd Austin, at a meeting of 43 NATO and other countries (held at the Headquarters of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe) declared that what had transpired was a demonstration of the resolve of nations from around the world to support Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression.

Russia's response has been equally threatening. When asked about the prospect of a Third World War, Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, is on record that the risk, including the possibility of nuclear war, was not inconsiderable and that the situation must not be underestimated. Mr. Lavrov added, "NATO, in essence, is engaged in a war with Russia through its proxy, and is arming that proxy.". He further added that "war means war".

The implicit threat by Russia of using nuclear weapons cannot be disregarded. Mr. Lavrov is not the only one to talk of nuclear weapons, for former Russian President, and currently Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev similarly warned Sweden and Finland (which are currently not members of NATO) that if they decide to join the U.S.-led military alliance, Russia would not hesitate to deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles to meet the threat this posed. He ominously added that in such an eventuality, there would be 'no more talk of a nuclear free Baltic'.

**Nuclear weapon use is taboo**

All the signs are, hence, far from reassuring, and concerns about a nuclear holocaust appear real. Yet, it would be premature to arrive at the conclusion that a Third World War, accompanied by the use of nuclear weapons, is around the corner. One fact stands out loud and clear, *viz.*, that since 1945, and despite occasional 'nuclear sabre rattling' by the nuclear weapon powers, the use of nuclear weapons has remained taboo.

Since the first two atom bombs were dropped on Japan, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons has only increased multifold. Nuclear weapons are also no longer the monopoly of any one single power. A nuclear attack by any one of the major nuclear powers – Russia, the United States or China – would bring instant retaliation. Again, the nuclear balance today is unfavourable to the West, for Russia and China, between them, have a combined strength of nuclear weapons which is bigger than that of the West. More to the point; if the two sides were to engage in a nuclear conflict, there would be no victors, and it could only result in a nuclear armageddon.

Apart from grave consequences in the event of a nuclear stand-off, there are other inhibiting factors that make a Third World War an unlikely prospect. One current reality is that there are many degrees of separation as regards the Ukraine-Russia conflict, between the views held by the West and quite a few other countries across the world. Not all countries again

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

are in agreement with the West about the extent of Russian perfidy in the context of Ukraine, and this segment includes sizeable sections of the emerging world. Even some countries in Europe not affiliated to NATO remain sceptical about the reasons adduced for U.S. support to Ukraine, and hew to the view that the ulterior objective is to restore global belief and faith in U.S. authority and power, and make 'America great again'. There is even less support to the hackneyed theme that Russia today represents 'the Empire of Evil'. A latent fear among such uncommitted countries is that all-out support to the West, and allowing it to act as judge, jury and executioner, could create problems for many of them in the future.

**Europe's real concern**

Countries across Europe are also concerned about the costs of the war, more specifically, the cost of rebuilding Ukraine after the conflict. There are many little known facts in this context on what a prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict could mean for both Europe and the world that are worth mentioning. For instance, Ukraine and Russia are generally referred to as the 'bread basket' of Europe. A prolonged conflict would have serious consequences for Europe as far as food security is concerned. Furthermore, Europe is still to recover from the adverse impacts of a prolonged novel coronavirus pandemic, and an extended war could damage the economies there even further. As it is, the WTO has downgraded Europe's trade forecast to 3% from 4.7% for this year. Again, just two companies in Ukraine produce around 50% of the global total neon output – it is a critical gas required for the lasers used in a chip production process known as lithography, 'where machines carve patterns onto tiny pieces of silicon'. Chip shortages are expected to cause production cuts in the audio, computer and electronic industries. Given all this, a Third World War is hardly the preferred choice of most people, more so in Europe.

**Signs of a Russian restraint**

There is little doubt that Russian President Vladimir Putin's foray into Ukraine was a serious blunder – a point made by many western leaders, and quite a few others as well. Nevertheless, Russia has not since displayed the same degree of 'foolhardiness' that could provoke a wider conflagration. One instance of this that could be mentioned, and which might have led to a serious situation, is Russia's restraint in the wake of its biggest war-time loss of a battle ship since the Second World War (in which one sailor died and 27 are reportedly missing). That Russia demonstrated restraint even after it became known to the world at large that the missile cruiser was hit by a Ukrainian anti-ship missile speaks volumes. To much of Europe and the West, Russia's response seemed unexpectedly low key. Whether such restraint would continue is a matter for conjecture, but for the present it is indicative of Russia's unwillingness to enlarge both the area and the intensity of the conflict.

As of now, Russia is concentrating – or at least seems more interested – in dismembering Ukraine, now that Ukraine's membership of NATO has been put on the backburner. Moscow is currently eyeing large segments of Ukraine's East and South, and seems to have given up plans for the present to 'conquer' the whole of Ukraine and make it a part of Russia. If Russia persists with its current thinking, then it would denote that Russia is not interested in getting embroiled in a Third World War. For their part, most countries of Europe – unlike NATO and possibly the U.S. – believe that they can continue to live with the new order of things.

The problem with this latter objective is that it conflicts with the desire of both the U.S. and NATO to exploit the current war situation in Europe to weaken Russia militarily and politically, and incidentally decapitate Mr. Putin politically by undermining his authority and position. This explains the intensity with which the U.S. has mustered its – and NATO's – capabilities to resist Russia's invasion of Ukraine and inflict permanent economic and political damage on Russia, and diminish it militarily. That would meet at least two principal objectives that dominate U.S. thinking at present – revitalising the U.S.-NATO partnership to make it the bulwark of European security and restoring U.S. image in Europe as also across the world.

**It is 'sober and being softer'**

The current thinking in Europe appears more in line with a softer approach. The re-election of France President Emmanuel Macron was a matter of relief and satisfaction for the U.S. and Europe, but the display of strength by the Far Right is inducing a great deal of rethinking in ruling circles in Europe and underscoring the importance of taking a sober approach to policy issues, avoiding all or any kind of intemperate move. Yet, there are many unknowns that will still need to be dealt with. The West, and specially, the U.S., remains intent on enlarging NATO, and notwithstanding the current Ukraine war, is also probably complicit in the recent announcement by Sweden and Finland of their willingness to join NATO. Being well aware of Mr. Putin's mind set, it is almost as if the West is daring Russia to react.

The West and Russia both need to be careful and take due care to negotiate the many minefields that abound. The West should be thankful that Mr. Putin has not yet emerged as a Joseph Stalin, but at the same time they should realise that there are no Churchills, De Gaulles and FDRs [Franklin D. Roosevelt] on their side.

*M.K. Narayanan is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal*

# Reading from the old script, conceding election 2024

The Congress's inertia stems from a refusal to recognise that a lot of the old grammar of politics has been overturned

HARBANS MUKHIA

If gratitude was a virtue valued by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), it would have much to thank the Gandhi family for even in contrary scenarios.

Let us go to the year 1984: the BJP's two out of 543 seats in the Lok Sabha versus the Congress's Rajiv Gandhi and its 414 seats, which remains unbeaten. It was hard for any political party to rise from the ashes of these dimensions.

**Revival of the opponent**

However, the BJP did so, with great help from the woolly 'secularism' of Rajiv Gandhi. In one fell swoop of two 'secular' steps, he paved the way for the BJP's revival: by perpetrating a monstrous amendment of the Constitution to overturn the most sensible judgment of the Supreme Court granting maintenance to a hapless Shah Bano, hoping to win the voluble conservative Muslim clergy to his side instead of abiding by the rising liberal voices within the community, and two, by having the locks on the Babri Masjid opened and permitting *shilanyas* of the Ram temple, thus giving space to the assertion of loud Hindu voices, hoping to win them over too with this concession.

Both steps helped the BJP to emerge from the shadows: the first by providing social acceptance to its charge of minority appeasement against the Congress, and the second by demonstrating that even a government with an unprecedented electoral mandate can be brought to its knees by loud noise. From then on, significantly, even as the Congress has been in power, it never had a majority of its own. More importantly, the BJP's divisive agenda has found steady support to enable it to come centre stage.

**For a drastic transformation**

And then there is the history of events that occurred from 2014 onwards. The BJP's divisive agenda, barely hidden under the veil of 'vikas', has showed the Congress the writing on the wall: things will never be the same again. And for its survival, a drastic transformation is required – a transformation starting at the base and going to the top, and an imagination way beyond what it was familiar with in its long history. An imagination that counters the BJP's platform of 'vikas' at the top and widespread but localised communal violence at the ground level. A genuine restructuring of the inner working of the Congress is needed to give voice to its supporters at the base and right up to the top, and a narrative that goes beyond issuing statements of concern at price rise and for some of its leaders to be paying visits to temples on the eve of every election and a side visit to a dargah on the way.

The one faint sign of an alternate Congress agenda came up a month or two before the 2019 general election, when it coined its

FILE PHOTO/SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Nyuntam Aay Yojana', or Nyay Yojna, of providing a regular income of ₹72,000 a year to the bottom 20% of India's families in terms of wealth, but it vanished before it could even be heard by the potential beneficiaries, and has never been heard of again.

**An inertness**

The challenge the Congress was expected to pose to the BJP has dissipated owing to its sheer inertia at both the structural and the ideological planes. The inertia emanates from the refusal to recognise that a lot of the old grammar of politics has been overturned. Politics is no longer a leisurely activity undertaken a month or two prior to an election and preparing an appropriate manifesto; it is an agglomerate of constant activity, not least keeping your cadres forever active on several fronts and, above all, the leaders being seen leading from the front all the time and not on occasional visits after getting back home from a secret trip abroad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not the only leader who has changed the grammar; the Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's leader M.K. Stalin, the Aam Aadmi Party's leader Arvind Kejriwal and several others have done it too, and with great success, irrespective of the merits of each.

It is clear that the Gandhis refuse either to look at the writing on the wall (and, therefore, to let any significant change take place either in the mode of the party's functioning) or to let any alternate agenda come to the fore so long as they remain ensconced at the top, never mind if the bottom keeps slipping away. The suggestions that were reportedly made by political strategist Prashant Kishor to the party recently contain little that the group of 23 senior Congress leaders has not been making over the past two years and more and getting a tongue lashing by the drum beaters around the top. The only significant new suggestion made by Mr. Kishor appears to be a strategic one – for the Congress to contest 350 odd seats on its own and for the rest by seeking alliances with regional parties.

The leadership has responded with its time-honoured tactic of burying all implicit criticisms – by appointing a committee to look at them. They have lain buried for over two years anyway. Indeed, they have implicitly lain buried ever since 2014 when the party should have woken up to the new realities and equipped itself to deal with them. Its 'introspective' sessions after every defeat should easily qualify as a term of political humour. The persistent efforts of the 23 senior party leaders to awaken the top three in the family have been ignored. Mr. Kishor's suggestions are a case of an alarm bell ringing out, and steps have been announced to ignore these as well.

**Almost status quo**

While a step ordained by the party's own constitution to democratise its inner functioning through fair and transparent elections; to put its mind to creating an agenda that stands apart from the BJP's (now as well as for the elections), and to start a sort of full-time internal movement is clearly the need of the hour, the leadership has made it clear that that would be its last option. It has thus conceded the 2024 general election to the BJP. It is increasingly getting hard to view the Congress and the BJP as adversaries; they look more to be complementary to each other, though the complementarity is entirely one-sided.

Is there any hope that things might change? Any hope that the Gandhi family will gracefully retire and let the party reinvent itself is far too utopian. Any hope that they will undertake the requisite steps themselves is not any more likely. And the rest of the Opposition parties getting together with Congress amounts to "damned if you do, damned if you don't" under the current scenario. Yet, the fact remains that the BJP's electoral support does not go beyond 40%; 60% of the voters still remain on the other side.

One can see why Mr. Modi and the BJP should be grateful to the Gandhis.

*Harbans Mukhia taught history at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and is a commentator*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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**Court orders ignored**

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) has reasons to be upset since the government of the day has been impervious to the collegium's recommendations on the appointments and transfers of judges (Page 1, May 1). The greatness of Indian democracy lies in the fact that no government has ever refused to adhere to judicial verdicts in spite of the fact that judges have no independent means of enforcing these orders. It will be harmful for democracy if any government decides to flout these norms.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The CJI has been categorical in pointing out the defiance of governments that have contributed much to the docket explosion in the judiciary. A situation has reached where judicial activism is no more considered to be an enigma but the only safety valve to ease the putrid smoke of injustice and inaction suffocating the democratic ecosystem. Half-baked legislative enactments made after short-changing the classic four 'D's – Discussion, Dissent, Debate and (fully informed) Decision – are the main villains of the piece.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ Though what has been said is not new for suffering litigants, justice has been abnormally delayed for one reason or the other. The Employees' Pension Scheme-1995 case is a a glaring example to cite.

N.S.R. MURTHY,
Secunderabad

**Captain again**

Ravindra Jadeja handing over captaincy back to Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a retrograde step. Dhoni may play the game for another year or so and the CSK would have to scout for a captain again. Moreover, expecting Dhoni to turn the team's fortunes around when it is precariously placed at the bottom, would be a tall order. A team which was considered a role model, now looks out of place.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

# Funding woes haunt Indian science

## NRF could be a game-changer by its intent of democratisation of the knowledge base

C.P. RAJENDRAN

India cannot aspire to be a global leader in scientific research if enough funds are not injected into basic research. • GETTY IMAGES

Far back in time, science, like monasticism, attracted people who were singularly driven by a passion for seeking the truth. Largely ignored by the rulers and the state machinery of those days, science was either supported by the enlightened and munificent elites or by the investigators themselves from their personal funds. The times have changed since, and we have never had so many people supported by the state, whose purported purpose of work is to understand the world better. Thus, knowledge generation of the natural world has become a highly competitive endeavour among the nations and science funding has often been touted as a marker of social advancement.

### India's R&D expenditure

With very little participation from the private sector in the country that includes some of the richest by global standards, curiosity-driven basic research in India is primarily sustained by direct funding from the government. Still, it remains static in India and hovers between a paltry 0.6 to 0.8% of GDP over a decade, way below the United States, China, Japan, the European Union countries and South Korea. While India's global R&D expenditure remains static at 1-3% of the global total, the U.S. and China accounted for 25% and 23%, respectively. This trend of under-funding is also reflected in the low proportion of qualified researchers available in India, considering its huge population.

The World Bank statistics indicate that India had 255 researchers per million people in 2017 – a minuscule fraction for its size and population, in contrast to 8,342 per million in Israel, 7,597 in Sweden and 7,498 in South Korea. Compared to 111 in the U.S. and 423 in China, India has only 15 researchers per 1,00,000 population.

The budgetary allocations over the last several years show a consistent downward trend. Much of the total of the funding available goes to DRDO, Department of Space and Atomic Energy, leaving only 30 to 40% for agencies such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); it is from this last-mentioned allocation that the extra-mural research from the individual investigators are supported. The current financial year (2022-23) is no exemption, borne out by the budgetary allocations for scientific research. The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has earmarked ₹14,217 crore in the 2022-2023 Union Budget – a drop of 3.9% from last year; the DST and DBT are supposed to receive ₹5,240 crore and ₹2,961 crore, respectively.

While the funding trend remained frozen between 2011 and 2018, the number of universities jumped from 752 to 1,016, and doctoral degrees escalated from 10,111 to 24,474, which means that the available number of people required to do scientific work as a career option enlarged exponentially.

Probably realising this demand from the new generation of researchers from the universities, the 2021-22 budget offered ₹10,000 crore ($1.37 billion) every year starting from 2021, over the next five years, for a new funding agency called the National Research Foundation (NRF). This agency is expected to boost university science research, as well as the work in social sciences. The journal *Nature* in its editorial dated February 9, 2021, in a somewhat euphoric tone, called it "a ground-breaking change", giving the fullest credit to the then Principal Scientific Adviser K. Vijay Raghavan for seeding this idea to the point of fruition.

This newly proposed idea is also in tune with what is being stated in the National Education Policy 2020: "The NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based but equitable peer-reviewed research funding, helping to develop a culture of research in the country through suitable incentives for and recognition of outstanding research, and by undertaking major initiatives to seed and grow research at state universities and other public institutions where research capability is currently limited".

### The NRF's importance

Despite the announcement of the NRF and a huge fund infusion in the science budget, the 2021 budget speech had also expressed the intention of investing about ₹4,000 crore over five years for deep-ocean research and biodiversity conservation; and promised to four centres for virological research and a commitment to developing hydrogen energy. Planned to be an autonomous body and therefore less bureaucratic, the NRF was expected to bring thousands of colleges and universities under its ambit. As most of the country's scientific research is being conducted by government laboratories and a few premier institutes, this new forum was thought to be a game-changer by its intent of democratisation of the knowledge base. But it is anybody's guess why the current-year budget was eloquently silent on this initiative of the last financial year, which is yet to be approved by the Cabinet. Such a lack of continuity in government policy towards science funding is a huge deterrent to achieving the fullest potential in scientific research in India.

Gallup poll of sorts among the researchers would surely nail the biggest hindrance in Indian science – the financial bureaucracy, again a legacy of British colonial governance. To unleash the fullest potential of Indian science, a vibrant and responsive financial system is required. Such a system should be autonomous and more participatory, and less bureaucratic – a problem also compounded by the fact that the finance person is made more accountable to the ministry rather than the secretary of the department. It is widely felt that it is often less difficult to have a project approved than to have funds periodically released. A corollary question is how to regain the autonomy of scientific institutions in financial management that has undergone considerable erosion. India must choose to break the bureaucratic barriers that exist in the government departments and develop innovative ways to help basic research flourish.

India cannot aspire to be a global leader in scientific research if enough funds are not injected into basic research by committing to raise the R&D spending to at least 1% of the GDP. It is also important for the private sector to chip in. But for that to happen, the government should incentivise the private players by giving them tax breaks, etc. The promise to set up NRF, independent of political interference, and the related financial commitment needs to be realised. Another option is to upgrade the SERB (Science Engineering Research Board) to play the role assigned to the NRF. There are a lot of cues to be obtained from China on how it managed to become a world leader in scientific research. For all this to achieve, a foremost requirement is a dynamic R&D ecosystem, which India lacks today.

*C.P. Rajendran is Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru*

# Invigorating the Ayush industry

## Its integration into mainstream systems will give wider acceptance to traditional systems of the country

RAJIV KUMAR, VAIDYA RAJESHWARI SINGH & RAVINDRA PRATAP SINGH

The global market for herbal medicine was valued at $657.5 billion in 2020. It is expected to grow to $746.9 billion in 2022. In China, the traditional medicine industry had total revenue of $37.41 billion in 2018, according to an IBISWorld report. In fact, the Healthy China 2030 plan forecasts that the value of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) market may reach $737.9 billion within China and globally by 2030.

The growth of the TCM industry in China is attributed to the immense attention the sector has received in the country. In 1982, the Constitution of China gave full recognition to TCM. Since 2009, there has been continuous support for TCM in health policies. China has focused upon developing quality infrastructure for TCM to co-exist with modern medicine under the same roof.

### The NAM scheme

In India, the National Ayush Mission (NAM) was launched in 2014 by the Department of Ayush, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to promote Ayush systems and address the needs of the sector in a comprehensive way. Providing cost-effective services, strengthening educational systems, quality control of drugs and sustainable availability of raw materials are the main objectives of NAM. The industry is projected to reach $23.3 billion in 2022, according to a Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), 2021, report. The Indian herbal medicine market is worth $18.1 billion.

The Indian Ayush sector has grown by 17% between 2014 and 2020. Related segments such as plant derivatives grew by 21%, plant extracts by 14.7%, and herbal plants by 14.3% during the same period.

Under the 'Medicinal Plants' component of the NAM scheme (2015-16 to 2020-21), the cultivation of prioritised medicinal plants in identified clusters/zones is being supported. Cultivation of plants on farmer's land, establishment of nurseries with backward linkages, post-harvest management with forward linkages, and primary processing, marketing, etc., are all covered under the scheme. For the cultivation of plants, subsidies at 30%, 50% and 75% of the cultivation cost for 140 medicinal plants are being provided. So far, approximately 56,396 hectares are under the cultivation of medicinal plants, as per the Ministry of Ayush.

Further, last year Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that medicinal plants will be cultivated on 75,000 hectares of land. The Ministry of Finance has also announced a ₹4000-crore package under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan for the promotion of herbal cultivation.

There is no doubt about the potential of the sector and the above measures will surely help. However, the Ayush sector requires a multi-dimensional thrust, ranging from initiatives at the institutional level, massive awareness and promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants by farmers, to trade-related interventions and quality focus measures.

### SMPBs to be strengthened

The National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) implements the medicinal plant component of Ayush through state bodies–State Medicinal Plant Boards (SMPBs). The organisational structure of SMPBs needs to be strengthened. They should have experts for conservation, cultivation, R&D, herbal garden and nurseries, IEC and marketing and trade of medicinal plants. On the trade front, developing comprehensive databases on Ayush trade, products and raw materials is needed. To date, most ISM (Indian System of Medicine) products, herbal products and medicinal plants products are not identified under specific HS (Harmonised system) codes. Expansion of HS national lines to accommodate various features of traditional medicine and medicinal plant products based on existing requirements is required to provide more comprehensive trade data on Ayurvedic products.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar on April 19, 2022. This will be the first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.

NITI Aayog has already constituted a committee and four working groups on integrative medicine, with more than 50 experts across the country, to provide deeper insights and recommendations in the areas of education, research, clinical practice and public health and administration. Considerable progress has been made by the committee for the finalisation of the report. Integration of Ayush systems into mainstream systems will certainly give wider acceptance for traditional systems of the country.

The Ayush industry in India can provide cost-effective healthcare to people across States. It has all the ingredients of success, to co-exist with the modern health systems, as a choice-based system of traditional medicine.

*Dr. Rajiv Kumar is former Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog. Vaidya Rajeshwari Singh is Research Officer, and Ravindra Pratap Singh is personel secretary to Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog*

STATE OF PLAY

# Law and order in turmoil

## The immediate task for West Bengal's government is to restore the reputation of the police force

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

On May 5, the third Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal will complete one year in power. This will also mark Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 11 years at the helm of affairs in the State. But, at a time when Trinamool Congress should have been celebrating, the State government is grappling with a series of incidents that have raised serious questions on the law-and-order situation in the State. The violence at Bogtui village in Birbhum on March 21 when nine persons, including seven women and a child, were burnt to death in a retaliatory violence after the murder of a local Trinamool Congress leader is something that is going to haunt the West Bengal government and the State's ruling party for a long time.

The Bogtui violence and the murder of Congress councillor at Jhalda in Purulia was followed by a spate of cases of sexual assault on women, particularly minors. These incidents have come as an embarrassment to the State government.

In half a dozen instances, including the violence at Bogtui, the murder at Jhalda, the rape and death of a 14-year-old girl at Hanskhali in Nadia, the Calcutta High Court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the case. In its order directing the CBI to investigate, the court has shown little faith in the State police and affirmed that a probe by the central agency is essential to restore faith among people.

While questions can be raised on the track record of CBI probes including its prolonged ongoing investigation of the various chit fund scams, one thing is clear – the West Bengal government needs to sort out the prevalent law and order situation. The common refrain by the State's ruling party that these are "isolated" or "trivial" incidents do not hold true particularly when the High Court had to interfere and hand over the investigation to the CBI in many cases in a span of just a few weeks. Further, the Trinamool Congress's habit of pointing at similar or more violent incidents in the Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh makes little sense to the people of the State. After 11 years of continuous rule, the Trinamool Congress should have been able to project West Bengal as a model State, an alternative to the BJP-ruled States, but the party leadership seems to perpetually point an accusatory finger when cornered over the declining law and order situation.

In all the incidents where the Calcutta High Court had to intervene, questions have been raised on the role of the police. There have been allegations of the police not taking action at Bogtui and Hanskhali. There have also been cases, like the death of the student leader Anish Khan and the murder of Congress councillor at Jhalda, where the police itself stand accused of being involved in the crime.

On April 27, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee publicly pulled up senior police officers and asked why the State should suffer a loss of face because of their negligence. However, it is not only negligence. It is an open secret that the ruling party at the local level controls the police. This was made evident on March 23 when the Chief Minister herself ordered the arrest of a block president at Rampurhat, for refusing to deploy the police at Bogtui village to prevent the massacre. Inadvertently, Ms. Banerjee indicated the power the local Trinamool leaders wield over the police. At present one of the most difficult and immediate tasks ahead for Ms. Banerjee is to restore the reputation of her police force, which has taken a major battering over the past one year. The police in West Bengal will have to shrug off local political interferences and carry out its functions, without being partisan, to put a check on such violent crimes.

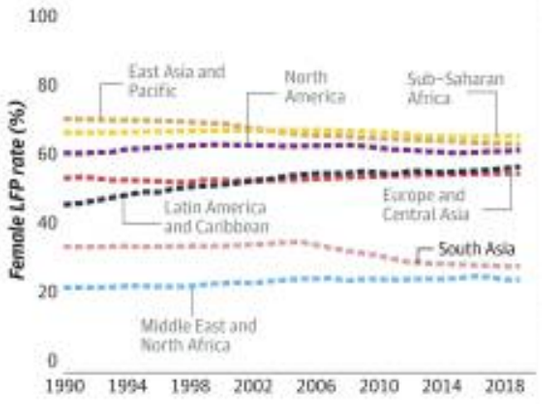
*shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in*

DATA POINT

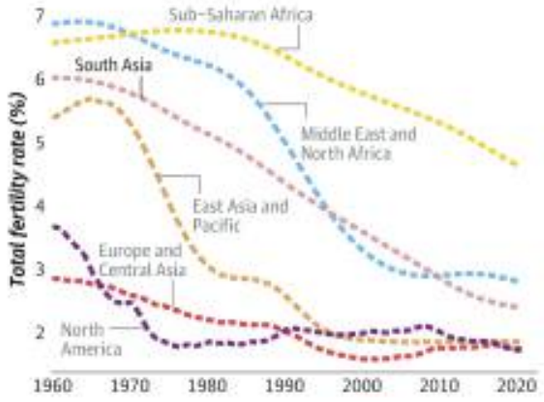
## Persisting gender divide in South Asia

Despite decades of rapid economic growth, rising education, and declining fertility, women in South Asia continue to face disadvantages in accessing economic opportunities. Female labour force participation (FLFP) rate in South Asia is well below all other world regions, apart from West Asia and North Africa. Education, a key determinant of FLFP, also does not explain the low participation as women's gross enrolment rate in secondary schools has consistently gone up in South Asia. The total fertility rate has also declined in most South Asian countries but it did not lead to a rise in FLFP. Thus, a **World Bank** paper concludes that social norms and attitude towards gender in South Asia are strongly connected to women's poor participation in economic activities

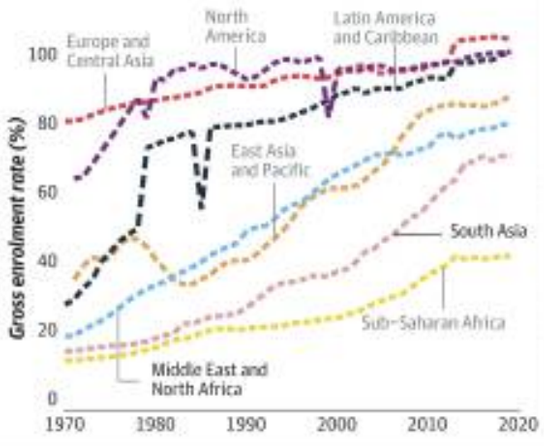
**Lagging behind** | The chart shows the female labour force participation (FLFP) rate across world regions. South Asia lags behind all other world regions except the Middle East and North Africa. In 2019, only 23.6% of women in South Asia were in the labour force, compared with around 50-60% in other regions



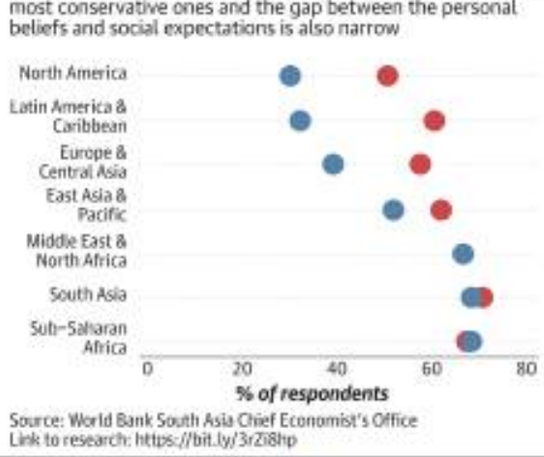

**Declining fertility levels** | The chart shows fertility rate (the number of children that an average woman has in her lifetime) across regions. In South Asia, barring Afghanistan and Pakistan, all countries showed a significant reduction in fertility rate. This indicates that declining fertility rate have also not impacted FLFP trends




**Enrolment rates** | The chart shows secondary school enrolment rates of females across world regions. By 2020, enrolment rates in South Asia improved drastically and were close to developing regions. However, this improvement did not lead to a rise in FLFP




**Social norms** | The chart shows the results of a global survey that measured personal beliefs (●) and social expectations (●) towards gender equality. Responses from South Asia for the statement, "Woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children," are among the most conservative ones and the gap between the personal beliefs and social expectations is also narrow




Source: World Bank South Asia Chief Economist's Office
Link to research: https://bit.ly/3rZi8hp

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1972

## Vietnamisation that never worked

Saigon, May 1: Vietnamisation not only never worked but never happened despite the American pull-out. This is the impression of newsman Peter Arnett and photographer Horst Faas of the Associated Press, who covered the Vietnam war from 1962 to 1970 and returned three weeks ago to report on the current Viet-Cong offensive. They write: what we have seen in the last three weeks looks like a film strip of the preceding 10 years reversed and rerun. The years peeled back as images of Vietnam at war flashed before our eyes. One morning last week, an American adviser for Rural Development held up a 1.8 metre computer readout of his province's security rating that he had just received from Saigon. "Look at this", he said, pointing to a bank of numbers. "That is supposed to give the current status of our popular force units. We cannot reach any of those units by radio. They have just gone. This paper is worthless." He walked over to a chart detailing development plans for a score of hamlets in his northern districts. "We have lost them too", he said, turning the chart to the wall. Elsewhere in the three major fighting areas we visited – the sense of swift, unexpected reversal was strong. We arrived 10 days after the North Vietnamese offensive began. Thrusts had been made deep into Quanv Tri province.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1922

## India's goal

To the outer view Indian nationalism may appear to be no more than a demand for a change in the form of Government, or at best, for the amenities of an independent existence, but that is, after all, the secondary part of India's aim. The philosophy of her nationalism consists of a double goal, firstly the defence of her own civilisation and secondly the fulfillment of her mission in the world. It was this high ideal that inspired Indian Nationalism at its very birth; it is this ideal which, with the depth of a religious faith, sustains the movement in its latest phase. India does not want to be swamped by occidentalism which on its economic side is almost synonymous with plutocracy and in the philosophical aspect, is a quick march towards materialism. This spirit of the West – which one must differentiate from the admirable results of her science and art – had been stealing on India in the past few years, and Indian nationalism, no longer inert, wants to safeguard against its invasion.

FROM PAGE ONE

## April GST revenues go past ₹1.67 lakh crore

"Even though the spike in April's GST collections partly benefits from year-end adjustments, the all-time high magnitude of inflows is very enthusing, and augurs well for a robust year-on-year growth in the months ahead as well," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar, adding there is evidence of a healthy pace of economic activity in March despite the escalating geopolitical conflict in Europe.

There were, however, wide variations in growth trends across States. While Tamil Nadu's collections grew just 10% in April, Maharashtra saw collections rise by 25%, Odisha 28% Haryana 23% and Andhra Pradesh 22%. Karnataka and Rajasthan recorded a 19% uptick in GST collections, while the growth rate was 17% for Gujarat, and 16% for Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

**Dip in revenue**

Six States and Union Territories reported a contraction in revenues from a year ago, including Bihar (-2%), Manipur (-33%), Mizoram (-19%) and Tripura (-3%). GST inflows from Lakshadweep tanked 18% year-on-year, while those in Daman and Diu dropped a sharp 78%.

"The government has settled ₹33,423 crore to the CGST and ₹26,962 crore to the SGST from the IGST. The total revenue of the Centre and the States in April 2022 after regular settlement is ₹66,582 crore for the CGST and ₹68,755 crore for the SGST," the Ministry said.

# Six more held in Patiala violence case

### Police say the arrested include the key conspirator Barjinder Singh Parwana, who allegedly led a mob

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Sunday arrested six more persons, including the key conspirator Barjinder Singh Parwana, in connection with the "anti-Khalistan" clash between different groups in Patiala.

Inspector-General of Police of the Patiala range, Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, said the police had arrested Mr. Parwana from Mohali in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district. Five others had been arrested since Saturday night.

"Till now, we have arrested nine persons in connection with Patiala violence," he said.

According to the police, Mr. Parwana was the main conspirator from the Sikh radicals' group, who allegedly led a mob and incited violence in Patiala on Friday in which four persons, including two police personnel, were injured.

**Hand-cuffed:** Barjinder Singh Parwana, main accused in the Patiala violence case, being taken to Mata Kaushalya Hospital for a medical test on Sunday. • PTI

Those arrested include alleged Sikh radicals Shiv Dev, Davinder Singh and Rajinder Singh, and Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) district president Shankar Bhardwaj and Ashwani Kumar Gaggi Pandit.

Earlier the police had arrested Harish Singla of the Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray), besides Kuldeep Singh and Daljeet Singh in different cases related to the violence. Six FIRs were registered in connection with the Patiala violence.

On Friday, a clash broke out between different groups amid a confrontation surrounding the holding of a foot march in the city against the backdrop of the announcement by the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) to mark the foundation day of Khalistan on April 29.

**AAP's claim**

In a press conference, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab chief spokesperson Malwinder Singh Kang said the State government's quick action against anti-nationalist and anti-social elements was much appreciated. "Thanks to the quick and effective action of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Punjab police, the mastermind, Barjinder Singh Parwana, who instigated violence and provoked people, has been arrested from Mohali within 48 hours of the incident," he said.

## Maruti, Hyundai car dispatches dip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Facing production issues due to supply chain challenges, leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki (MSI) and Hyundai Motor reported a dip in vehicle dispatches from factories to dealers in April.

Tata Motors, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Skoda Auto, on the other hand, witnessed a robust growth in vehicle dispatches last month.

The country's largest carmaker MSI said its domestic sales slipped 7% to 1,32,248 units as against 1,42,454 units in April 2021.

"The shortage of electronic components had a minor impact on the production of vehicles, mainly domestic models," the auto major said.

Hyundai Motor India reported a 10% dip in wholesales last month at 44,001 units last month, as against 49,002 units in April 2021.

Similarly, Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) reported a 13% year-on-year decline in domestic wholesales to 7,874 units for April. The automaker is hopeful that the situation will improve soon.

MG Motor India said its retail sales declined 22% to 2,008 units last month compared to 2,565 in April 2021.

**COVID impact**

The production remained volatile and immensely impacted by the global supply chain constraints due to the sudden and new COVID-19 lockdowns in different parts of the world, the automaker said.

Home-grown auto major Tata Motors on the other hand reported a 66% increase in dispatches to dealers. Also, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said its wholesales rose by 57% in April.

Skoda Auto India said its sales surged by over five-fold in April at 5,152 units as compared to 961 units in April 2021.

## Ex-MLA held in Kerala hate speech case

Mr. George called the arrest Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's gift to Muslim extremist groups.

He was granted bail after being produced before Thiruvananthapuram Judicial First Class Magistrate Court XII Judge Asha Koshy at her official residence. He was instructed to refrain from influencing witnesses and interfering with the investigation, and not to engage in similar controversies and make hate speeches.

The State capital earlier witnessed high drama as the police braved several tense moments to arrest Mr. George. The police convoy rushed him to the Armed Reserve camp at Nandavanam amid tight security.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan demanded legal action against Sangh Parivar leaders at whose behest Mr. George allegedly made the controversial remarks.

Reacting to the developments, Indian Union Muslim League general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty termed Mr. George's comments a 'war cry' that was aimed at destroying peace in the State.

The situation remained tense in the city with the police having deployed sizeable teams in anticipation of riots. Amid threats by the BJP to agitate against the police action, a large gathering of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) activists threw eggs and waved black flags when Mr. George was brought to the police camp.

A few BJP supporters, who waylaid the convoy at Vattappara on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram, draped a shawl on the politician.

## Trade pact between India, UAE is active

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the biggest bilateral trade pact between the two major economies, was activated on Sunday.

The agreement was signed on February 18 between the two sides. Coinciding with the important occasion, Secretary, Department of Commerce, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam flagged off the first consignment of goods consisting of jewellery items from India to the UAE under the India-UAE CEPA at an event held at the New Customs House here.

The India-UAE CEPA is the first of the major bilateral trade pacts that India has been negotiating to kickstart international trade in the post-COVID-19 scenario.

*Working class unity*

**Vocal for rights:** Kashmiri government contractual workers and daily wagers from various labour groups shout slogans during a protest marking International Labour Day on Sunday. • NISSAR AHMAD

## e-Shram to help settle workers' accident claims

At the time the portal was launched in August 2021, the Ministry had estimated that there were 38 crore unorganised sector workers in the country. According to the Ministry functionary, an analysis of the registrations so far was being carried out and a new campaign to get more workers to register would also be planned.

In her Budget Speech 2022-2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the linking of four portals – the National Career Service, e-Shram, UDYAM (for those interested in starting MSMEs) and ASEEM (Atmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping). The Labour Ministry announced on April 20 that the inter-linking of the NCS and e-Shram portals had been completed recently.

"This linkage has enabled unorganised workers registered on e-Shram to seamlessly register on NCS and look for better job opportunities through NCS. So far, more than 26,000 e-Shram beneficiaries have registered on NCS and have started benefiting from this linkage," the Ministry had said in a statement.

# Key posts of national security interest to fall vacant soon

### Suspense over filling of the posts of Union Home Secretary; Intelligence Bureau Director, and RAW Secretary

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The tenures of three high-profile offices – the Union Home Secretary; Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB); and Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) – are ending in the next few months, with suspense over whether the present incumbents will continue in the posts or new faces will replace them. Since Independence, none of these offices have been occupied by a woman.

All three officers were granted a year's extension in office in 2021 and belong to the 1984 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).

On May 28, 2021, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) granted a one-year extension in service to IB Director Arvinda Kumar and RAW Secretary Samant Kumar Goel.

Their two-year fixed terms would have ended on June 30, 2021. The ACC on August 12, 2021 granted a year's extension to Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, beyond his two-year fixed tenure that was to end on August 22, 2021.

While Mr. Kumar, an IPS officer, and Mr. Bhalla, an IAS officer, belong to the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, Mr. Goel, also an IPS officer, is from the Punjab cadre.

The general elections are due in the first half of 2024.

If new appointments to these posts are made next year, they will have a little over six-months in their new offices till the model code of conduct kicks in and a new government is formed by May 2024.

There is a sense in the power corridors that changes, if any, will have to be made this year as the government will want continuity and experienced hands in the crucial election year.

**Public interest extension**

Before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the then chiefs of IB and RAW – Rajiv Jain and A.K. Dhasmana, respectively – were granted a six-month extension in service in December 2018, beyond their two-year tenures as the Centre wanted a status quo at the top security posts till the general elections concluded.

According to the Fundamental Rules, 1922 that govern the appointment and tenures of all government servants, the posts of Union Home Secretary; Director, IB; and Secretary, RAW can be extended by up to two years beyond the two-year fixed tenure in "public interest".

The extended tenure of another 1984 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), S.K. Mishra, Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), is also to end in November 2022.

Days before his three-year-tenure was to come to an end, the Union government on November 14, 2021 promulgated two ordinances to allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED from two years to up to five years.

If the government is to exhaust the five-year extended tenure on Mr. Mishra, then the officer could continue to be in office till November 2024. A Supreme Court ruling in 2017 had fixed a two-year term for Director, ED but the new appointment rules under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (Rule 45 of 2003) relaxed the tenure limit to up to five years.

The amendment is also applicable to the Director, CBI's post, extending the fixed two-year tenure to up to five years under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (Rule 25 of 1946).

The present CBI Director S.K. Jaiswal's two-year term ends in May 2023.

## Operational readiness key, says Army chief

Gen. Manoj Pande, reviewing a guard of honour after taking charge, in New Delhi on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Gen. Pande was speaking to journalists after reviewing a guard of honour on the lawns of South Block.

"The Army has also contributed to nation building. I would like to assure through you that the Indian Army will be fully committed to the values of freedom, liberty and equality," he stated.

Chiefs of other services, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari and Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar were also present at the guard of honour. The three Chiefs are coursemates, from the 61st course of the National Defence Academy.

When asked about the significance of the presence of other chiefs, Gen. Pande said he had known them well and it was a good beginning of synergy, cooperation and jointmanship among the three services while assuring that they would work together and take things forward in the cause of national security and defence.

## BL Changemaker award entries open

### Aim is to felicitate people who made our world a better place to live in

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Changemakers are a rare breed. Most among us prefer status quo while some seek change without wanting to contribute for it. All they do is constantly complain about the present conditions. Only a few actually do something to bring about the change. And these are the people who need to be supported and celebrated.

As *The Hindu BusinessLine* stepped into its 25th year of publishing in 2018, it decided to commemorate this important milestone by felicitating people who made our world a better place to live in through their path-breaking efforts. Thus, was born *The BusinessLine* Changemaker awards.

BusinessLine CHANGE MAKER awards RECOGNISING HUMAN CATALYSTS

Three editions of the awards have been held since then. The 2021 edition could not be held due to the pandemic.

**Five categories**

The work on the 2022 edition of the Changemaker Awards has begun. The nomination window was opened for the public to nominate changemakers on March 31. Nomination can be made across five categories of awards – Changemaker - Social Transformation, Changemaker - Digital Transformation, Changemaker - Financial Transformation, Young Changemaker and Changemaker of the Year.

Lots of interesting nominations have been received so far. Those who would like to nominate themselves or someone who they knew have contributed to make lives better can do so by accessing www.blchangemakers.com. The last date for the nomination is May 15.

Once the nomination window closes, the applications will be screened and evaluated by *BusinessLine* along with its knowledge partners (Deloitte and Ashoka).

The shortlisted nominees will be validated by the validation partner (Niiti Consulting) before the list is sent to the independent jury for picking the winner.

The website has details of past winners and any other information that one may need about the awards, the qualification criteria, details about various categories, past winners and so on.

If you know of a changemaker who needs to be celebrated, now is the time to send in your nominations.

## 12 passengers injured in severe turbulence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

At least 12 passengers on SpiceJet's Boeing B737 aircraft operating flight SG-945 from Mumbai to Durgapur, were injured on Sunday when it faced severe turbulence during descent, sources said. Immediate medical assistance was provided upon the aircraft's arrival in Durgapur, the spokesperson said.

"SpiceJet expresses its regret at this unfortunate incident and is providing all possible medical help to the injured," the spokesperson added.

**APPEAL**

**Incika is a 2 years old child** hailing from a poor family. She is suffering from PDA and needs **Rs.2,00,000/-** for the PDA Closure(Heart Surgery) at Public Health Centre, Chennai. Kindly help her to have a new life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).**
All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

**WWS**

# Will try to strengthen spirit of cooperation with Europe: PM

## Region facing many challenges and choices, says Modi ahead of three-nation visit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Welfare of the Indian diaspora, the crisis in Ukraine and renewable energy are expected to be in focus during the three-nation Europe tour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that starts on Monday. In a pre-departure press statement, Mr. Modi said his visit would strengthen the spirit of cooperation between India and the European countries.

"My visit to Europe comes at a time when the region faces many challenges and choices. Through my engagements, I intend to strengthen the spirit of cooperation with our European partners, who are important companions in India's quest for peace and prosperity," Mr. Modi said. The visit is the first big engagement by the top Indian leadership with major European powers since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

### Ties with Germany

Mr. Modi will reach Berlin on Monday morning where he will hold talks with Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The two leaders will lead the Indian and German delegations during the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).

"I see the IGC as an early engagement with the new government of Germany, within six months of its formation, which will be helpful to identify our priorities for the medium and long term," Mr. Modi said.

Holding a special briefing on the visit, the newly appointed Foreign Secretary, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will accompany the Prime Minister and hold talks with their respective counterparts.

The visit by Mr. Modi comes against the backdrop of multiple visits by European leaders to Ukraine who have pressed for a common front against Russia.

Mr. Kwatra, however, indicated that India would stick to the cautious stance regarding Russia. "We have been calling for cessation of violence," he said.

India has refused to endorse an outrightly pro-Ukraine line at the United Nations and has maintained neutrality in the face of mounting pressure from Western countries.

### Indian diaspora

Mr. Kwatra said outreach to the Indian diaspora would be an important part of Mr. Modi's visit.

"Continental Europe is home to over one million persons of Indian origin, and Germany has a significant proportion of this diaspora," Mr. Modi said, adding that he would meet "brothers and sisters there".

From Berlin, Mr. Modi will fly to Copenhagen where he will lead the Indian team at the second India-Nordic Summit along with the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The summit is expected to focus on the post-pandemic economic path, climate change, digitisation and renewable energy.

On his way back, Mr. Modi will meet French President Emmanuel Macron who recently won the re-election against far-right candidate Marine Le Pen.

"President Macron and I will share assessment on various regional and global issues and will take stock of ongoing bilateral cooperation. It is my firm belief that two countries that share such similar vision and values for the global order, must work in close cooperation each other," Mr. Modi said in his statement.

# Columbia Journalism School award for The Hindu Group Chairperson

## Dr. Parthasarathy honoured for group's digital strides

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

Dr. Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson of The Hindu Publishing Private Ltd., received the Distinguished Alumni Award of Columbia Journalism School at a function organised at the institution on Saturday.

She was among the six alumni chosen for the award for 2022. The names of the award winners were announced in December 2021.

After receiving the award, Dr. Parthasarathy said in a tweet: "Receiving a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Columbia J-School Dean @SteveCollNY. Truly a high point in my life journey, validating as it does forty years of my work in journalism, making all the struggles so worthwhile!"

"Deeply honoured and humbled today to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award from my alma mater the iconic @columbiajourn School," she said in another tweet.

Dr. Parthasarathy received the award from Steve Coll, Dean of Columbia Journalism School. She also took part in a panel discussion on press freedom and democracy moderated by him.

Malini Parthasarathy, Chairperson, The Hindu Group, receiving the alumni award on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Parthasarathy said, "*The Hindu* has been my life support and is my primary connect to journalism. I am forever grateful. *The Hindu* newspaper remains a beacon of the highest editorial values in these challenging times. I would like to dedicate my award to *The Hindu* and its sustained commitment to producing great journalism."

While announcing the award in December, the institution credited Dr. Parthasarathy, who was in its class of 1982, with steering a journey of digital transformation of The Hindu Group's editorial products, particularly the 143-year-old flagship national daily *The Hindu*.

"Parthasarathy has been a political journalist for over three decades, writing news stories and editorials on major themes in Indian politics, including the rise of Hindu nationalism and the consequent challenges to the existing political consensus," it said.

The awardees include Thomas Maier, investigative reporter at *Newsday*; and Mukhtar Ibrahim, founder, editor and executive director of *Sahan Journal*.

# AAP, BJP in a war of words in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Aam Aadmi Party national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Gujarat BJP leaders were engaged in a war of words on Sunday.

Addressing a rally of tribal people in Bharuch, Mr. Kejriwal called State BJP president C.R. Paatil a non-Gujarati and the super CM of Gujarat. "@CRPaatil of Maharashtra is the president of Gujarat BJP. Didn't the BJP get a single Gujarati for its president? People say he is not only the president but also runs the Gujarat government. He is the real Chief Minister. This is a gross insult to the people of Gujarat. BJP people, give Gujarat a Gujarati president," Mr. Kejriwal later tweeted.

Responding to the jibe at him, Mr. Paatil called the Delhi CM a "threat to national security".

"Giving responsibility in his party to people with Khalistani mentality and believing that making a demand for Khalistan is a constitutional right, @ArvindKejriwal is a threat to the security of the country," he tweeted in Gujarati.

# Raj Thackeray stays firm on ultimatum

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Refusing to budge on the issue of removing loudspeakers from mosques, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday warned Muslims that if they do not accept his request, then he should not be held responsible for what occurs in Maharashtra after May 4.

He reiterated that he had no interest or the need to disturb peace in Maharashtra by causing riots. "I do not want to poison Id festivities. But after that [May 4], we will not listen. I urge all my Hindu brothers to play the *Hanuman Chalisa* in front of mosques. If you [the Muslim community] do not listen humbly to our requests, we will have no option left," Mr. Thackeray said at an event in Aurangabad.

"If they [Muslim community] do not understand in simple language, then let what has to happen happen... You [the Hindu community] should not sit quiet. I urge the police to dismantle these loudspeakers from mosques," said the MNS chief.

He said even loudspeakers outside temples should be taken down, but only after the ones in mosques are removed.

# Face-off casts shadow over Id prayers at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

## Administration claims it has inputs about likely protests

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A confrontation erupted on Sunday between the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, caretakers of the historic Jamia Masjid, over the timing of Id prayers at the traditional Idgah venue and the grand mosque in Srinagar, casting a shadow over permission being granted for any congregational prayers at these places.

Sources said the authorities, for a third straight year, might not allow Id prayers at the Idgah venue and the historic Jamia Masjid "following inputs about likely anti-India protests and violent clashes on the occasion".

The administration had proposed to the Auqaf to hold Id prayers at the Jamia Masjid, Nowhatta, by or before 7 a.m. and had categorically denied permission for any congregational prayers at the Idgah, which has witnessed biggest gatherings in the past with many turning into anti-India protests.

The Auqaf, which takes care of the 600-year-old mosque, however, accused the authorities of "imposing conditions" on Id prayers at the Masjid, including maintaining peace after the prayers. The Auqaf had earlier announced that Id prayers would be held at 9.30 a.m. Sources said the Auqaf had decided not to advance the timing of prayers as suggested by the administration.

The authorities have not formally announced their decision on allowing Id prayers at the Jamia Masjid.

The Masjid has by and large remained closed since the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional position in August 2019. The authorities, however, allowed Ramzan prayers this year. Head priest of the mosque and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also remains under house arrest.

**Missing the buzz:** A view of the locked entrance to the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

# Id to be celebrated tomorrow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Id-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan, will be celebrated on Tuesday as the moon was not sighted on Sunday evening.

Fatehpuri Masjid Imam Mufti Mukarram Ahmad said that the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee of the mosque contacted many places in the country to establish that the moon had not been sighted anywhere.

# 'Uddhav not a true adherent of Hindutva'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, accusing him of forming a government with the Congress which had spoken against Lord Ram.

Speaking at the BJP's 'booster dose' rally in Mumbai, Mr. Fadnavis said that Mr. Thackeray was not a true adherent of 'Hindutva'.

"The [late Chief Minister] Kalyan Singh had sacrificed his government for Lord Ram when he refused to fire on the *kar sevaks* who demolished the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992. But you [Uddhav Thackeray] are sitting on the lap of those [the Congress and Rahul Gandhi] who have spoken against Lord Ram and questioned his existence," Mr. Fadnavis said.

"I say with great pride we demolished the Babri, which was nothing but a mere structure. And I was there as well with the *kar sevaks*... Of the 32 people who were accused in the Babri demolition, there were no leaders from Maharashtra who are part of Mr. Thackeray's government today," he said.

# Time running out for plea in SC against J&K delimitation

## Petitioners cite urgency saying exercise may get over soon

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Time may be running out for a petition filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's decision to appoint a Delimitation Commission, headed by former top court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to redraw the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir following the revocation of the special status under Article 370 and the bifurcation of the former State.

The petition filed by two Jammu and Kashmir residents, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, wants the Supreme Court to also examine why Jammu and Kashmir has been "singled out" for delimitation when Article 170 of the Constitution says that such an exercise for the entire country is due only in 2026.

### Early listing

The case was filed on March 28 this year. On April 13, the petitioners' lawyers, senior advocate Ravi Shankar Jandhyala and advocate Sriram Parakkat, made an oral mentioning in court for an early listing of the case.

The court had directed its Registry to list the case before an appropriate Bench.

But a letter from the petitioners' lawyers to the Registrar, Supreme Court, on April 27 showed the case had still not been listed. The letter pointed out the urgency in the case. It said the delimitation may get "over soon", by May 6, 2022.

"It is most respectfully submitted that the matter be listed before an appropriate Bench," Mr. Sriram Parakkat wrote in his letter.

The petition argued that the Centre had usurped the jurisdiction of the Election Commission by notifying the delimitation of Jammu and Kashmir.

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2022 (OJEE-2022)**

*No: OJEE / 193* *DATE : 30-04-2022*

**NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF THE LAST DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FOR OJEE - 2022**

In consideration of requests received from a number of interested candidates, the **last date for online application for OJEE – 2022, which was earlier fixed as 30.04.2022, is hereby extended up to 10.05.2022**.

Candidates are advised to visit our websites (**www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com**), read the '**Information Brochure**' and the '**Instructions to fill On-line Application Form**', which are available in the OJEE websites and submit their online Application Forms as soon as possible, without waiting till the last date.

It may be noted that there will be no further extension of the registration period beyond this date.

**Sd/- CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha**

h-53 OIPR-14020/11/0004/2223

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD**
**DIRECTORATE OF UNIVERSITY FOREIGN RELATIONS**
Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500 085, Telangana (India). ACCREDITED BY NAAC A-GRADE

**FN/PIO/CIWG/NRI ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION (2022-23)**

Applications are invited from the eligible Foreign Nationals/Persons of Indian Origin/Children of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries/Non Resident Indian candidates seeking admission into **B.Tech/B.Tech (IDP)/ M.Tech/ M.Sc/ MBA/ MCA/ M.Pharmacy /Ph.D** courses for the Academic Year 2022-23. The application form is available in the DUFR office or it can be **download** from the website or apply through online application available on the University website **www.jntuhdufr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in.** The filled in application is to be submitted along with required documents and a DD of **Rs.1000/-** in favour of **"The Registrar, UFR Account, JNTUH", payable at Hyderabad.** For further details **www.jntuhdufr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in.**

Sd/- Registrar

DIPR No. : 69-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 02.05.2022

**KERALA UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN STUDIES (KUFOS)**
Panangad P.O., Kochi-682 506, Kerala, India, Ph: 0484-2701085, 2275031
e-mail: utypanangad@kufos.ac.in, website: www.kufos.ac.in

No. Acad 1/133/2022 **NOTIFICATION** Date: 29.04.2022

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following PG/ Ph.D programmes for the academic year 2022-23.

1. **M.F.Sc.** **Candidates should have NTA score of ICAR-AIEEA (PG) 2022.** (1) MFSc. Aquaculture (2) MFSc. Aquatic Animal Health Management (3) MFSc. Aquatic Environment Management (4) MFSc. Fish Nutrition & Feed Technology (5) MFSc. Fish Processing Technology (6) MFSc. Fisheries Engineering & Technology (7) MFSc. Fisheries Extension (8) MFSc. Fisheries Resource Management.
2. **M.Sc.** (1) MSc. Applied Geology (2) MSc. Biotechnology (3) MSc. Climate Science (4) MSc. Disaster Management (5) MSc. Environmental Science (6) MSc. Food Science & Technology (7) MSc. Marine Biology (8) MSc. Marine Chemistry (9) MSc. Marine Microbiology (10) MSc. Physical Oceanography (11) MSc. Remote Sensing & GIS (12) MSc. Statistics
3. **M.B.A** (Dual Specialization) **Candidates should have qualified KMAT/ CMAT/ CAT for admission in 2022**
4. **M.Tech.** (1) M.Tech. Coastal & Harbour Engineering (2) M.Tech. Ocean & Coastal Safety Engineering.
5. **Ph.D.** In all Faculties (1) Faculty of Fisheries Science **(Based on NTA score of ICAR AICE – JRF /SRF (PhD) 2022)** (2) Faculty of Ocean Science & Technology (3) Faculty of Fisheries Management (4) Faculty of Fisheries Engineering

**FINAL YEAR DEGREE STUDENTS CAN ALSO APPLY**
**LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION: 31.05.2022**

Applications shall be submitted online through "**www.admission.kufos.ac.in**". For more details please visit the website "**www.kufos.ac.in**". **Contact details:** Ph: 0484-2701085, 2275031. Email: admissions@kufos.ac.in

REGISTRAR i/c

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARIPADA.**
Tel. No. 06792-254029, Fax No.06792-259464,
E-Mail:eerwss_bpd@rediffmail.com, eerwss_bpd@ori.nic.in

**Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice.**
**Bid Identification No.01 of 2022-23, Date: 28.04.2022.**

1. **Nature of the Work:** Execution of Rural Piped Water Supply New Projects under different Blocks in Mayurbhanj district. in **Percentage rate.** (09packages).
2. Estimated Cost: **154.15 lakh to 433.71 Lakhs.**
3. Period of completion:- **300days/11 months.**
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal: **From 11 hour of 13.05.2022 to 30.05.2022 up to 17 hours.**
5. Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Both Technical & Financial Bid for each Package **Up to 17 hours of 30.05.2022.**
6. Name and address of the O.I.T.: **Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada.**
7. **Date & Time for Opening of Tender: 31.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.**
8. Corrigendum and addendum if any shall only be published in the above website **http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in**

**Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/-
**Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada**

0-147 OIPR-25014/11/0002/2223

**CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED**
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107. Phone: 044 2379 2000

**NIT No: CMRL/PHASE-II/SYS/C4-ASA10/2022**
**E-procurement Tender - Funding agency - New Development Bank International Competitive Bidding**
**e-TENDER No : PHASE-II/SYS/C4-ASA10/2022**

CMRL invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) as detailed below:

**"Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Plat form Screen Doors for CMRL Phase II - Corridor 4"**

Please refer websites www.chennaimetrorail.org or: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app For further information.

DIPR/207S/Tender/2022

Director (System & Operations)

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**
Office of the Chief Engineer(WWM), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two cover system from eligible contractors for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Name of Work | Amount put to tender EMD |
|---|---|---|
| IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM)/ACE(WWM)-1/TA-1/175/2022-23 | | Dt:28.04.2022 |
| 1 | Providing and laying 800mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer line from BBMP Office Kadugodi FCI Main Road to Kadugodi STP - 2nd Call. | Rs. 237.86 Lakhs / Rs. 3.57 Lakhs |
| IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM)/ACE(WWM)-1/TA-1/177/2022-23 | | Dt:28.04.2022 |
| 2 | Providing and laying 450/600/900mm dia RCC NP3 class sewer line from Kodigehalli Main Road to Sadaramangala ISPS along Hoodi Kodigehalli Road - 2nd Call. | Rs. 340.98 Lakhs / Rs. 5.11 Lakhs |

For both works, Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **16.05.2022 upto 17.30 Hrs.** Technical bid will be opened on: **18.05.2022 at 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(WWM)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Jagadale Advertising/350/2022-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

## IN BRIEF

### HDFC raises lending rate by 5 basis points

NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Sunday raised its benchmark lending rate by 5 basis points, a move that will increase the EMIs for existing borrowers. The rate increase is in line with other lenders, including the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda. "HDFC increases its Retail Prime Lending Rate on Housing loans, on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 5 basis points, with effect from May 1, 2022," the company said. PTI

### 'LIC keen on retaining some stake in IDBI Bank'

NEW DELHI

The Life Insurance Corporation has said that it will retain part of its stake in IDBI Bank to reap the benefits of the bancassurance channel. Along with the government, the LIC will also divest its stake in IDBI Bank, but may not exit completely, LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar told PTI in an interview. The LIC is currently doing roadshows for its maiden public issue, which opens for subscription on May 4. The Central government for the past few years has been planning to sell its 45% minority stake in IDBI Bank to strategic investors as part of its privatisation drive. PTI

### BJP MLA arrested for attacking govt. officer

BHUBANESWAR

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA in Odisha was arrested for allegedly attacking a senior government officer here on Sunday. Based on the complaint from Tileibani Block Development Officer (BDO) Krushnachandra Dalapati, the BJP MLA from Deogarh Assembly seat, Subash Chandra Panigrahi, was arrested from his official residence in Bhubaneswar. Two of his supporters were also arrested by police. The BDO in his complaint said that he was beaten up by the MLA during a field visit at Chhepalipali village. PTI

### Drunken man throws 3 children into well

BHUBANESWAR

A man threw three of his children into a well in an inebriated condition following a squabble with his wife in Odisha's Sundargarh district on Saturday evening, the police said. The bodies were recovered on Sunday. Pandu Munda, 21, returned to his village Kulla from a nearby market in a heavily drunken state on Saturday. He got into a quarrel with his wife. According to the Koida police, Munda soon picked up an axe and chased his wife to kill her. She ran away from the spot and hid behind a bush. Munda returned home and found his daughter Sina Munda, five, son Raju Munda, two, and a six-month-old daughter. PTI

# Keep health facilities prepared for heatwave cases, says Centre

## Provide uninterrupted power supply, ensure availability of medicines, it tells States

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Health facilities need to increase resilience to extreme heat by arranging uninterrupted electricity supply for cooling appliances and installing solar panels, wherever feasible, and taking steps to reduce indoor heat through special roofing, window shades, and such other measures, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

The Ministry has written to the Chief Secretaries of the States and the Union Territories advising that the preparedness of health facilities must be reviewed for the availability of adequate quantities of essential medicines, IV fluids, ice packs, ORS and equipment.

Women shielding their children from the sweltering heat in Prayagraj on Saturday. • PTI

**Sufficient drinking water**

The availability of sufficient drinking water at all the health facilities and the continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas must be ensured, the Ministry said.

It added that the rainwater harvesting and recycling plants may also be explored for attaining self-sufficiency in water supply.

The Ministry said that the seasonal and monthly outlook from the India Meteorological Department for March-May forecasts above normal maximum temperatures in many areas of the country and much higher temperatures in the central, western and northern parts of the country.

Temperatures have already touched 46 degrees Celsius at some places and deviation up to six degrees Celsius from expected normal temperatures have also been reported, the Health Ministry said.

"States may also use Information, Education and Communication (IEC) as well as community-level awareness materials regarding the precautions to be taken by population to safeguard themselves against heatwave," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in his letter.

**Standard template**

The Health Ministry has disseminated a standard template of Public Health Advisory incorporating dos and dont's, prepared by the National Centre for Disease Control. It added that this can be used as a template and customised to suit local needs as well as translated in local languages for wider dissemination.

He urged to disseminate the guideline document "National Action on Heat Related Illnesses" to all districts.

# Parties oppose relocation terms set by Shillong Sikhs

## They want land, house-building expenses for moving out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Some political parties and NGOs in Meghalaya have opposed the conditions set by Mazhabi or Dalit Sikhs and other non-tribal residents to move out of a prime commercial area in the State capital of Shillong.

The Harijan Panchayat Committee (HPC), representing the residents of Shillong's Harijan Colony or Punjabi Lane, had agreed to relocate in April, four years after a communal flare-up associated with a drive to evict them. There are 342 families in the 3.33-acre colony with two-storey hovels flanking a 300-metre lane.

The conditions included resettling the residents in one locality with 200 sq.m of land for each family and ₹20 lakh to build a basic dwelling, letting some 60 community shopkeepers to carry on with their business in the colony after relocation and leaving religious structures in the vacated area untouched.

Four years after a communal flare-up, the Harijan Panchayat Committee had agreed to relocate in April. • FILE PHOTO

The United Democratic Party (UDP), the largest ally of the National People's Party in the coalition government, said the HPC's demands were "absurd, illogical and against the basic tenets of equal opportunity and justice".

UDP leader Paul Lyngdoh said the government employees among the Harijan Colony residents should be shifted to designated quarters and the others made to leave the area.

"If government employees start demanding permanent land and buildings to be built by the government, it will set an unacceptable precedent for all government servants," he said.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said, "The problem needs to be resolved keeping in mind the sentiments of people from both sides."

# Railway restructuring to lead to closure of major wings

## SRESTHA closed and 32 directorates merged to form seven verticals; unions say move is demoralising employees

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Going ahead with its downsizing plan, the Indian Railways has announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow.

Established in March 2016, the SRESTHA directorate, part of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), was tasked with the role of taking up long-term railway research projects requiring technological advancement.

The Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement has been closed. • PTI

As part of the restructuring plan, the Railways also decided to merge 32 directorates of the RDSO and brought them under seven verticals – administration, infrastructure, rolling stock, traction and power supply, signal and telecommunication, resource and testing and traffic and psychology.

Another notification is that the Geotech Engineering Directorate will be merged with the Track and Bridges & Structures Directorate.

The establishment of Principal Executive Director, Defence Research, at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, New Delhi, was detached from the RDSO.

The Railways also proposed to create new posts in the rank of Executive Director, Design, to be posted at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareli, under the Railway Board's Rolling Stock Directorate. The creation of the top-ranking posts assumes significance against the backdrop of the decision to roll out more than 200 Vande Bharat rakes at an estimated ₹26,000 crore.

**Sanyal's proposals**

The restructuring plan of the country's largest employer and transporter which is resulting in the closure or merger of major establishments and private participation in running hospitals and schools is in line with the recommendations for rationalisation of government bodies made by Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal.

In his proposal to the Railway Minister, Mr. Sanyal called for the winding up of organisations such as the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), the Central Organisation for Modernisation Of Workshops (COFMOW), the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (closed on September 7, 2021).

The Railways was continuing with the closure/merger of crucial establishments despite stiff resistance from the employees' unions, said N. Kanniah, president, All India Railwaymen Federation.

"Similarly other establishments proposed for closure have crucial modernisation, technological and research-oriented goals in the near future. Winding them up prematurely not only defeats the very purpose of their creation but demoralises the officers/employees," he warned.

In a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, National Federation of Indian Railwaymen general secretary M. Raghavaiah said there was widespread unrest and resentment against the proposal of the Principal Economic Adviser .

# CPI(Maoist) leader surrenders

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A member of the outlawed CPI(Maoist) surrendered before the Odisha police and laid down arms here on Sunday.

Lalsum, alias Laxman, was the secretary of the Kalahandi area committee in Banshadhara Ghumsur Nagabali division of the Odisha State committee.

He was carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh and surrendered before Rajesh Pandit, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Southwest Range) Koraput, Saravana Vivek M. Superintendent of Police, Kalahandi, and Biplab Sarkar, Commandant, CRPF, Bhawanipatna.

# Pawan Hans sale: Cong. flays govt.

## Party asks why Centre did not explore merging the helicopter firm with ONGC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday raised questions over the deal to sell the Centre's 51% stake in helicopter services provider Pawan Hans Ltd. (PHL), asking why the government did not explore merging the firm with ONGC instead of deciding to hand it over to a consortium that is just six months old.

The Finance Ministry on Friday said Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd will buy the government's 51% stake in helicopter services provider Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL), along with the transfer of management control, for ₹211.14 crore.

The reserve price for the strategic sale, which comes after three unsuccessful attempts, was fixed at₹199.92 crore based on the valuation carried out by the transaction adviser and asset valuer.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said that in the series of miscalculated and injudicious disinvestment decisions to justify their financial policies, "they are committing a series of blunders". The reserve price for the sale of this 51% majority stake was fixed at ₹199.92 crores and the other two bidders that participated made bids of ₹181.05 crore and ₹153.15 crore, respectively, he said.

**New entity**

Mr. Vallabh said while this may seem like a normal disinvestment, there are several things that raised eyebrows as Star9 Mobility Private Ltd, a consortium of Big Charter Private Limited, Maharaja Aviation Private Limited and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, was set up just six months ago on October 29, 2021.

Star9 Mobility Private Ltd. does not have any helicopters of its own while Big Charter Private Ltd. has just three helicopters on its fleet, he said. Also, Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC is set up under the jurisdiction of the Cayman Islands and has no correlation or experience in this sector, he said.

# CBI books Educomp, others in ₹360-crore bank fraud

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CB) has booked Educomp Solutions Ltd. (ESL) and others for allegedly cheating Jammu & Kashmir Bank of ₹360.3 crore. The agency had earlier booked the related entities in two other bank fraud cases involving over ₹2,761 crore.

In the latest case, among those accused are the then company's managing director Shantanu Prakash; directors Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Vinod Kumar Dondana; guarantor Jagdish Prakash, Edu Smart Services Private Ltd. (ESSPL); and others. Unknown bank officials are also under the scanner.

The accused persons had approached the bank to get credit facilities for the execution of 1,233 contracts with schools for the installation and implementation of smartclass equipment through the ESSPL. The bank started extending the loans in December 2011. In 2014, the bank along with other lenders under a consortium arrangement restructured the credit facilities and sanctioned more funds.

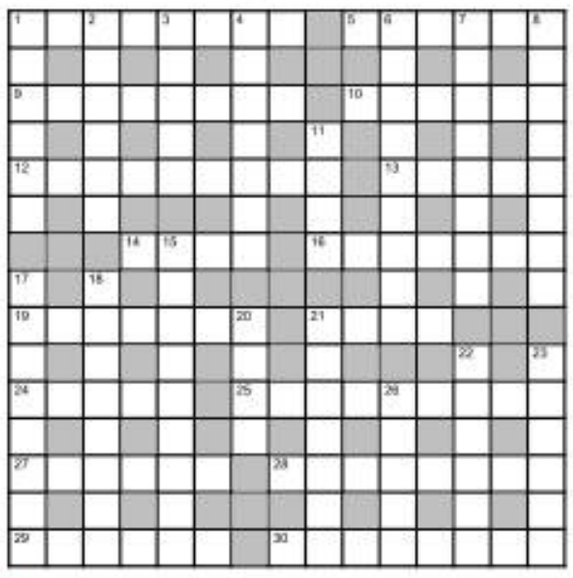
After exiting the restructuring, the borrower moved an application under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code before the National Company Law Tribunal in May 2017. During a forensic inquiry, the auditors found alleged instances of irregularities. Invoices were forged and balance sheets manipulated, stock price was inflated and funds were diverted to unlisted subsidiaries.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13545

(set by KrisKross)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



**ACROSS**

1 Repair motor to propel boat the next day (8)
5 Prosperous from repairing old engines (6)
9 Seize short weapon at entrance (8)
10 A season to return to bar, finally (2,4)
12 Pray God briefly – He initially guides difficult subject in school (9)
13 Shelter from sun inside home (5)
14 Melts away stains, say (4)
16 Dinner in the skies? (7)
19 Passion to collect gold all the time (7)
21 Father scoring runs for daughter's team (4)
24 It could make me cry over marriage, missing you (5)
25 Test team suffering defeat in another game (9)
27 Retro song describing America's southern state (6)
28 Carol drinks beverage with a drop of milk, very hot (8)
29 Offer from nurse (6)
30 Shoes are loosened in beach (8)

**DOWN**

1 Woman bitten by flying gnats throbs with pain (6)
2 Fabulous judge of beauty? (6)
3 Ok in Spain to move around in luxury car (5)
4 Leading technologist involved in work for a powerful organisation (7)
6 Completely undisciplined, a rude German is defeated in debate (9)
7 Ice pack is 25% this (8)
8 Never worn by a tot perhaps for swimming (8)
11 Indian farmer to perish without money finally (4)
15 Hotel hides new oven – it is something patentable (9)
17 After office, regularly love to dance? Sure sure (2,6)
18 Arranged treats including popular children's toy (5,3)
20 Couple starting off for competition (4)
21 Ghost with secret power to transform (7)
22 On the contrary, central London is actually a better place (6)
23 Just having a 1000 dollars? That's insufficient (6)
26 King has to become a poet (5)

## SUDOKU

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| 9 | | | 3 | | | 7 | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | 9 | | |
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| | | 1 | | | 6 | | | 2 |
| 8 | | | | 9 | | | | 4 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13544

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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| 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 |

## FAITH

# The ideal of selfless bhakti

Karma yoga and jnana yoga are said to lead to bhakti yoga. Jnana yoga is the meditation on one's atma swaroopa. That is, one tries to meditate on one's atma as always being supported and commanded by the Lord. One should always be aware that he is subservient and subordinate to Him.

In a discourse, Asuri Sri Madhavachariar drew attention to the gap between knowing this truth as a piece of information and experiencing it in one's daily routine amid the strong worldly pulls. Yoga abhyasa as taught by Krishna can reveal the atma within which is not tangible to the human senses. The Lord urges the jiva to control one's senses and the mind by practice of karma yoga. Jnana yoga is possible via karma yoga which is easier to practise for a majority of us. When done in the proper spirit, it leads to the realisation of the atma swaroopa that is the object of jnana yoga. The next step is to enter bhakti yoga which is shown to rest in the deep meditation on the Lord's omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence.

Ramanuja explains bhakti in practice as a gradual development in three stages, para bhakti, para jnana and parama bhakti. In the first stage of para bhakti, the individual is able to see the Lord in his mind. It is a kind of internalisation. In the next stage para jnana, one is able to dwell in the experience of the Lord and savour it. Here, one may get glimpses of God with some clarity. This encourages him to long for His vision more frequently and one develops vairagya towards worldly objects. The next stage is parama bhakti, which is the experience of intense love to the Lord as is exemplified by the Gopis. It is the highest form of selfless bhakti when even the early stage of fear of separation is transcended by His grace.

ASK US

K. NITYA KALYANI

**Q. My wife and I work in the government sector, and our salaries are ₹35,000 and ₹54,000 (net), respectively. We are both in our forties and have jointly taken a home construction loan of ₹60 lakh for 25 years. The question is about the choice of insurance cover my wife or I should opt for, to protect / waive our home loan, should any uncertain event occur.**

RAVINDRA KUMAR

A. Mortgage insurance is usually bundled with home loans. The sum assured on these loans match the loan amount and the policy period matches the tenure of the loan. The policy is assigned to your housing loan company so the claim payment is made to them, enabling them to adjust it against the outstanding portion of the loan, interest and charges and pay the balance to your nominee. The function of the cover is to make good the outstanding loan and interest should the borrower pass away without clearing the loan.

This leaves the property loan-free for the surviving owners/ family members who are contending with the loss of a loved one and the bread-earner at that.

For some reason you have not opted for it or your housing loan company has not made it mandatory. A good first step is to ask them for their options/offers, if any, so that the insurance will work seamlessly with your home loan.

That having been said, term insurance policies backing home loans have certain rigidities as they have been defined for the requirements of your lender.

For example, the cover will be co-terminous with your loan, that is, it will end at the same time as your loan is schedule to be paid off, while you may well want to continue with the policy as a protection for your family beyond that date. Please scout around for term insurance independently, with matching sum assured and policy periods.

If you spot something that you like, tweak the sum assured and tenure to your liking, ensuring that the former is higher than your housing loan amount and the latter is longer than the loan tenure. You are unlikely to find better rates as the housing loan company would have negotiated a bulk rate, but no harm doing this research. You may find add-on covers you like. You can ask your housing loan company to get these add-on covers for you, but they may or may not be inclined!

**Q. I have an endowment insurance policy which needs the premium to be paid for 10 years and I also have a pure term insurance policy for 25 years with sum assured of ₹1 crore. Is it advisable to have both insurance covers? If not, and if I surrender the endowment policy, what are the pros and cons?**

JOEL KIRUBHAKARAN

A. Since you have purchased both policies and have been paying the premium, only affordability or creating more efficient coverage can be reasons to surrender the endowment policy.

If you want to do that, you can check if your policy has become eligible to become paid-up or for surrender. The website of your insurance company and your agent can also help you with the information and formalities. If you make the policy paid-up, you don't have to pay premium any more and the policy coverage will continue with a smaller sum assured.

If you want to recover some of the money already invested right now, you can surrender the policy, depending on the terms and conditions. You will get back a portion of the premium you have paid and the coverage will cease. Having done that, you can stay with your term insurance if you think it is sufficient, or apply the premium you avoid paying on the endowment or the surrender value you received, towards a new term policy. You will have more coverage than with the earlier combination because of the premium rate differences between the two types of policies.

**Q. I am 28 years old and have an endowment plan of 20 years' tenure that started in 2018. The premium I pay now is ₹3,400 per month. After going through many finance-related articles including *The Hindu*'s MoneyWise section, I now think that an endowment plan is not the best investment option. What would be a better plan for me if I surrender my endowment? Also, will there be any demerits in surrendering it before maturity?**

AJIN KRISHNAN K

A. Surrendering comes at a price. You will get a refund only of part of the premium you have paid until now and coverage will come to an end. You can check if the policy is eligible to become paid-up. In this case you can stop paying the premium and the coverage will continue on a reduced basis. You can then rebuild your life insurance portfolio to the levels you want at better prices.

Almost all the information you need to compare the costs of surrendering or making it paid-up will be available on the face of the policy or on the website of your insurer. Your agent or the branch of your insurance company will support you with information and procedures as well. They will also tell you the demerits of such discontinuance and strongly advise you against it. Get their side of the advice, but also undertake some research yourself and come to the decision that is right for you.

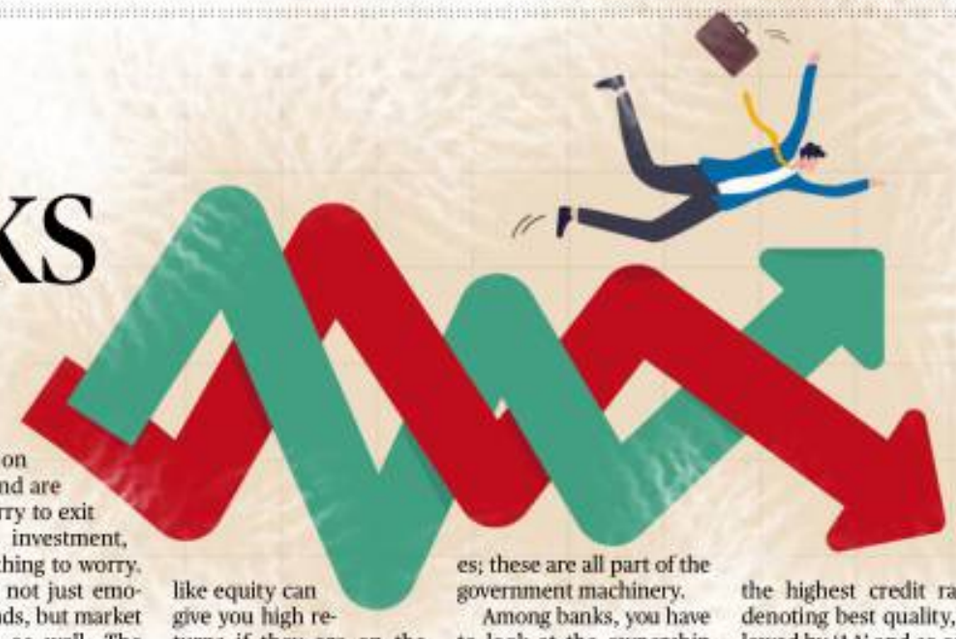
*(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)*

*Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.*

# Manoeuvring market risks

## As long as fluctuations are within range, you should stay put with your investments

JOYDEEP SEN



Everything in life comes with risk. The same goes for your investments. It is important to note here, that talking about risks in your investments is not about discouraging you, but about the right perspective. Even if you are not aware of them, risks abound. But, when you are aware, you are better informed and can think about mitigation.

The major and most prevalent is the volatility risk. When you are investing in the markets, be it equity or any other market, price levels are bound to fluctuate. In some markets such as equity or gold, the extent of fluctuation is relatively higher, while in others such as fixed income, it is relatively lower. In some markets like real estate, the price discovery does not happen every day, hence the level of fluctuation is lower.

Apart from the general measures of market volatility, how do you measure the volatility in your portfolio? There is a concept called mark-to-market, which indicates the price you would realise if you were to sell your portfolio or sell that particular holding. To be noted, it is 'if', that is you are not actually selling your portfolio every day; it is just a measure which is reflected in your statement of holdings. You need not be unduly worked up in times of negative volatility.

**In some markets such as equity or gold, the extent of fluctuation is relatively higher**

The perspective for you here is the extent of volatility that the market has seen historically. Unless there is a fundamental change in that market and as long as the fluctuations are within the range, you should stay put. What then is the mitigation for this risk? Time is a critical factor in tempering the effects of volatility. As long as you have time on your side and are not in a hurry to exit from that investment, there is nothing to worry. Time heals not just emotional wounds, but market corrections as well. The question for you here is: 'what is an adequate time frame that would take care of any transient market turbulence?'. The ballpark guide here is 10 years, and if you can make it even longer, say 15 or 20 years, you are not only safe, but can expect to earn decent returns.

### Time horizon

The other question for you is: if the time horizon is not as long but say five years, what should you do? Then, exposure to relatively more volatile investments like equity or gold should form a smaller part of your portfolio and relatively more stable ones such as fixed income should be higher. The rationale is, over a period of five years, volatile ones like equity can give you high returns if they are on the right side but on the wrong side, it would not impact you much.

The next major risk aspect is credit risk or default risk, which is typical of fixed income. There is no default risk in equity, as your returns are driven by market price movements. In fixed income, your money is due from somebody on maturity: bond maturity is due from the issuer, deposits from the bank or corporate and the like.

Here, the mitigation factor is the profile of the entity from which your money is due. There are certain government or quasi-government entities, which are highly safe

The Reserve Bank of India issues bonds and the small savings schemes are administered by post offices; these are all part of the government machinery.

Among banks, you have to look at the ownership and performance profile. Public sector banks are safe by virtue of government ownership, though protection of funds is not a stated guarantee. Among private banks, there are the leading ones that are doing well and are safe.

In the cooperative banks space, issues with regard to safety of deposits have arisen; hence you need to be careful. Bank deposits up to ₹5 lakh are secured by the Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Beyond that, the profile of the bank should help you decide. Then, there are deposits accepted by certain corporates and bonds issued by various types of issuers. The parameter to watch out for is the credit rating. 'AAA' is the highest credit rating denoting best quality, followed by 'AA' and so on.

Apart from direct investments in equity stocks or bonds, you may invest through mutual funds (MFs). Here, volatility risk is reflected in your statements. Returns are computed on the basis of the net asset values (NAVs) of your funds, which reflect the market price of that day and of the securities in the portfolio of the fund.

Over a short holding period, market movement may or may not be in your favour. Over a long period, market cycles play out and things even out. You need not check your portfolio statement every day.

Check it periodically, say, once a month. As long as you are clear about your investment time horizon, just hold on. On the fixed income oriented funds, you may look at the credit rating of the instruments in the portfolio i.e. AAA, AA etc., which conveys the credit quality.

There are government bonds in some debt funds, which are safer than even AAA-rated instruments.

### Other risks

There are certain other types of risk in the portfolio construct, which you should keep in mind. One is concentration risk. This is about your portfolio being spread across a relatively lesser number of instruments, which implies that if something were to go wrong in a particular equity stock or bond, you are exposed to that extent.

MF portfolios are already spread out across adequate number of securities, hence you need not buy into too many funds.

If you are doing the portfolio construct yourself, you should buy instruments across categories and have an optimum number. Liquidity is another aspect to note, in case you need access to funds prior to maturity or intended holding period.

Investments such as RBI bonds are not redeemable. In equity stocks or equity MFs, you can sell any time, but if your holding period is short, your returns are subject to market movements.

*(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)*

COVER NOTE: POLICY PICK

# Buy in haste, regret at leisure

## You get just one chance to get your life cover right as it is a life-long commitment

K. NITYA KALYANI

**Blind faith:** A knee-jerk reaction to pesky marketing leads to a belief that the policy touted is the best. • GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

A delightful part of my work while writing the Cover Note column is responding to readers' questions. They want to know which policies to buy, how to weigh options, claims, queries and problems in getting them resolved. There is significant post-purchase dissonance.

As often as not, this is because they haven't applied their minds and have made sub-optimal decisions.

My heart goes out to remorseful buyers as they seek solutions to correct the error. I have been there myself.

Some errors can be corrected; some others can, but with lost time and opportunity and/or monetary sacrifice. Some just can't be corrected. When it can be set right, it's better to do you homework so that you migrate with the least financial damage.

In all cases, if events have overtaken you, that is, if a loss has taken place, then you just have to claim as per the policy and live with that reality. Having said that, let us see what can be done in various cases.

The simplest errors to correct are vehicle policies, personal accident policies, and home policies.

These are annually renewable and you can transform the profile of your protection entirely. Just choose a different set of risks to cover, different sums insured, more of this cover, less of that, opt for a flood cover, or not. You can also change insurers or intermediaries. You may have to spend some quality time on phone or in person to protect your no-claim bonus on vehicle policies.

Life insurance policy choices seem to lead to the most regrets. Hard-sell may be the biggest reason for it. Remember, hard-sell works only on a soft target. Don't let that be you.

You can hardly turn around without being bombarded with life insurance marketing and advertising material. Yet, much hand-wringing relates to having bought an endowment policy, for example, and realising after a few months or years that a term policy would have been more suitable.

Confusion, an untold fear, or just a knee-jerk reaction to pesky harassment a.k.a. selling and marketing leads to a blind belief that the policy touted is the best; and two, accept the fallacy of insurance combined with investment returns.

Life insurance is a case where less is more. Just focus on the one key benefit of risk protection. For returns, invest elsewhere, including in investment type policies, provided your risk protection requirement is taken care of.

You get only one chance to get it right with a life insurance policy because it is a life-long commitment and who knows what the next moment brings.

In life and annuity policies, there is no mid-course correction without a cost.

Abandoning the policy is the worst choice. If you need to migrate, start your research from scratch and also find out your cost of migrating out.

Health insurance is somewhere between the two. You need not discontinue the policy, but can tweak your coverage at the annual renewal. You can usually expand the cover also, sometimes with riders, which are modular. You can increase sum insured and work out the waiting period for pre-existing conditions for the enhanced cover. Best of all, you can port the policy from one insurer to another.

All said, an insurance purchase decision is worth getting right the first time around. Makeovers are messy, can cost money and time and, in the worst cases, leave you high and dry at a time of need.

So, take the time and use those 'little grey cells' to investigate what the optimum cover you need is, and where and how you can purchase it to your benefit.

*(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)*

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

# Gloss dims on price weakness

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

Precious metals lost their sheen in April with both gold and silver closing on a weak note at the end of the month. Concerns around the possibility of aggressive interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve, along with the spike in the dollar played a key role in keeping precious metal price subdued in April.

Comex gold lost 2.2% in April to close at $1,911.7 an ounce. Comex silver saw a much deeper cut of 8.2% in April to settle at $23.09 an ounce.

Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold futures fell 0.79% to ₹51,754 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures lost 5.6% to settle at ₹64,349 per kg, at the end of April.

Comex gold price is still confined in the $1,880-$2,005 range. The short-term outlook hinges on the direction of the breakout from this range. Though there was a brief poke a few days ago, below the lower end of the range, the price staged a sharp recovery immediately.

The short-term outlook is positive and a move to $1,960-1,980 appears likely. The positive view would be invalidated if the price closes below $1,850. A drop below $1,850 could push the price lower to the 1,800-1,810 zone.

The short-term outlook for Comex silver appears weak and the price could dip to the immediate target zone at $21.75-22.20. The price has to move past $24.5 to invalidate the negative outlook. Breaching $21.5 would be a major sign of weakness and could push the Comex silver price to the $20.40-20.50 range.

The MCX gold price moved past the positive trigger level of ₹52,400 that was mentioned last month. The price touched a high of ₹53,663 on April 18 before receding. The short-term outlook remains positive.

A move past ₹53,350 would propel the MCX gold price higher to the major target zone of ₹54,500-55,000. The positive outlook would be invalidated on a close below ₹49,500.

As observed last month, MCX silver remained weak and drifted below the lower end of the trading range at ₹64,000. The breach of the lower end of the trading range is a sign of weakness and the price could drift lower to the ₹59,500-60,000 zone. Only a close above ₹67,000 would invalidate the negative outlook for MCX silver.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for precious metals depends on the breakout past the trigger levels mentioned above. As observed last month, it would be prudent to wait for prices to breach either of the levels, before concluding on the direction of the next move.

*(The writer is a Chennai-based analyst / trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)*

## Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover up to - 70 Years

| Insurance company | Plan name | Maximum cover up to (Years) | Annual premium ₹ |
|---|---|---|---|
| LIC OF INDIA | Tech Term^ | 80 | 14,122 |
| Aditya Birla Capital | Life Shield Plan | 85 | 12,998 |
| Aegon Life | iTerm Insurance Plan | 100 | 9,114 |
| Bajaj Allianz | Smart Protect Goal | 85 | 10,911 |
| Bharti AXA | Premier Protect Plan | 75 | 11,092** |
| Canara HSBC OBC Life | iSelect Star Term Plan | 99 | 11,605 |
| HDFC Life | Click2Protect Plus | 85 | 12,601 |
| ICICI Prudential | iProtect Smart | 99 | 15628 |
| India First Life | e-Term Plan | 80 | 8,260 |
| Kotak Life Insurance | Kotak e-Term Plan | 75 | 9,558 |
| Max Life Insurance | Smart Term Plan | 85 | 11,800*** |
| PNB Met Life | Mera Term Plan Plus | 99 | 12,272 |
| Reliance Nippon Life | Digi Term | 80 | 11,012 |
| SBI Life | eShield | 80 | 15,070 |
| TATA AIA Life | Maha Raksha Supreme | 100 | 12,980 |

^Maximum policy term is 40 years | **Bharti AXA coverage up to 65 years for age 20 years
***Max Life offers additional 5% discount for first year

## Health insurance premium

| Insurer name | Key features | Plan names | Premium (₹) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Care Health | Day Care Treatments<br>Family Floater option<br>Health Checkups<br>No claim bonus<br>Restoration of cover<br>Pre and Post Hospitalization Coverage | NCB Super Premium<br>Care<br>Care with unlimited recharge<br>Care plus<br>Care Heart<br>NCB Super Premium with UAR | 10,069<br>9,153<br>9,840<br>11,755<br>14,195<br>10,755 |
| Niva Bupa Health | Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Family Floater option<br>Alternate Medicine | Health ReAssure<br>Health Pulse Enhanced<br>Health Companion<br>Go Active | 9,590<br>10,161<br>9,862<br>11,747 |
| Star Health | Family Floater option<br>Restoration of cover<br>Wellness Benefits<br>Existing Illness cover<br>Free health checkup | Medi Classic<br>Star Comprehensive<br>Young Star Gold Plan<br>Diabetes Safe Plan-B<br>Young Star Silver Plan | 9,661<br>11,476<br>8,389<br>19,122<br>7,133 |
| Aditya Birla Health | Cashless hospitals<br>Day Care Treatments<br>Day 1 coverage<br>Day 1 coverage<br>Day 1 coverage<br>Day 1 coverage<br>Day 1 coverage<br>Day 1 coverage | Activ assure Diamond<br>Activ Health Platinum Enhanced<br>Activ Health Enhance ( Diabetes )<br>Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )<br>Activ Health Enhance ( Hypertension )<br>Activ Health Platinum Essential<br>Activ Health Essential ( Diabetes )<br>Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )<br>Activ Health Enhance ( Hypertension ) | 7,919<br>9,074<br>17,912<br>13,170<br>19,889<br>7,474<br>15,072<br>11,240<br>16,587 |
| Kotak General | No claim bonus<br>Restoration of cover | Kotak Health Premium- Elite<br>Kotak Health Premium- Edge | 11,139<br>9,757 |
| Chola MS General | Day Care Treatments<br>Hospital Room Eligibility<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Alternate Medicine | Flexi Health | 7,807 |

| Insurer name | Key features | Plan names | Premium (₹) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Digit Healthcare Plus | Day Care Treatments<br>Family Floater Option<br>Restoration of cover | Option 2 - Early Cover<br>Option 3 - Super care<br>Super core Option | 8,064<br>7,616<br>6,473 |
| Bajaj Allianz General | Hospital Room Eligibility<br>Wellness Benefits<br>Family Floater Option<br>No claim bonus | Individual Health Guard<br>Bajaj Health Guard - Platinum | 12,213<br>13,570 |
| SBI General Insurance | Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage<br>Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Free health checkup | Arogya Premier<br>Arogya Supreme | 11,074<br>13,180 |
| Royal Sundaram General | Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Hospital Room Eligibility<br>Alternate Medicine | Lifeline supreme | 8,578 |
| TATA AIG | Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage<br>Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Free health checkup | Medicare<br>Medicare Premier | 9,820<br>12,176 |
| Universal Sompo General | Hospitalization at Home<br>Hospital Room Eligibility<br>Alternate Medicine | Complete Healthcare Priviledge | 12,241 |
| Raheja QBE | Hospitalization at Home<br>Restoration of Cover<br>Hospital Room Eligibility | Health QuBE Basic<br>Health QuBE SuperSaver<br>Health QuBE Comprehensive | 4,947<br>4,011<br>5,787 |
| Edelweiss General | Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Hospital Room Eligibility<br>Alternate Medicine | Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gold (Health 241 Add-on)<br>Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold | 10,916<br>8,733 |
| Liberty General | Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home<br>Hospital Room Eligibility | Basic<br>Elite<br>Supreme | 9,579<br>10,777<br>11,337 |
| Oriental Insurance | Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage<br>Day Care Treatments<br>Hospitalization at Home | Individual Mediclaim Policy | 12,684 |

Data as on April 27, 2022
Source: LIC of India, www.policyboss.com

For a 30-year-old male, non-smoker, for sum insured of ₹10 lakh living in a metro city

# Civilian evacuations begin in Mariupol

## 100 people rescued from besieged steel plant; U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi meets Ukrainian President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Roughly 100 civilians have been evacuated from the besieged Mariupol steel plant in eastern Ukraine and are heading out of Russian-controlled territory, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday.

The announcement came after the UN said a "safe passage operation" was ongoing at Azovstal, where Ukrainian forces say they and hundreds of civilians have been sheltering from Russian bombardment.

"Evacuation of civilians from Azovstal began," Mr. Zelensky said on Twitter.

Mr. Zelensky said the group was expected to arrive in the city of Zaporizhzhia, which is under Ukrainian control, on Monday.

Russia's Defence Ministry gave a lower figure of 80 civilians. The UN has not said how many civilians it is transporting and it was not immediately clear why the sides had given different figures.

The fate of Mariupol, a strategic port city linking Russian-held areas of southern and eastern Ukraine, has drawn worldwide condemnation.

**Transit point:** Evacuees from near the Azovstal steel plant looking out of a bus in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Sunday. • REUTERS

Pope Francis on Sunday used his weekly Angelus prayer to renew his appeal for humanitarian corridors from Mariupol, saying that the city had been "bombed and destroyed in a barbaric manner".

Thousands have been killed and millions displaced by Russia's invasion, which began on February 24.

Western powers have rushed to send military aid to Ukraine and imposed heavy sanctions on Russia.

### Pelosi's visit

"Do not be bullied by bullies," U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi told reporters at a press conference in Rzeszow in southern Poland on Sunday after returning from Ukraine..

"If they are making threats, you cannot back down. That's my view of it. We are here for the fight and you cannot fold to a bully," she said.

Ms. Pelosi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv on Saturday, becoming the most senior U.S. figure to visit since the war began.

"We are visiting you to say thank you for your fight for freedom... Our commitment is to be there for you until the fight is done," she told him.

Ms. Pelosi also promised to enact the $33-billion (31-billion-euro) arms and support package announced by U.S. President Joe Biden last week.

Meanwhile, Russia has moved to solidify its grip on areas it controls and from Sunday introduced the Russian ruble in the region of Kherson – initially to be used alongside the Ukrainian hryvnia.

"Beginning May 1, we will move to the ruble zone," Kirill Stremousov, a civilian and military administrator of Kherson, was cited as saying earlier by Russia's state news agency *RIA Novosti*.

He said there would be a period of four months in which the hryvnia could be used, but then "we will completely switch to settlements in rubles".

# Saudi Arabia offers Pakistan $8 billion in financial support

## Islamabad is plagued by inflation and sliding forex reserves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide Pakistan with a "sizeable package" of around $8 billion to help the cash-starved country bolster dwindling forex reserves and revive its ailing economy, a media report said on Sunday.

Pakistan has faced growing economic challenges, with high inflation, sliding forex reserves, a widening current account deficit and a depreciating currency.

Pakistan secured the deal during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia. The financial package includes a doubling of the oil financing facility, additional money either through deposits or *Sukuks* (Islamic financial certificate), and rolling over of the existing $4.2 billion facilities, *The News* newspaper reported.

Prime Minister Sharif and his official entourage have left Saudi Arabia but Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail is still in the Gulf country to finalise the modalities of the financial package.

Pakistan had proposed doubling the oil facility from $1.2 billion to $2.4 billion and Saudi Arabia agreed to it. It was also agreed that the existing deposits of $3 billion would be rolled over for an extended period of up to June 2023.

"Pakistan and Saudi Arabia discussed an additional package of over $2 billion and it is likely that more money will be provided to Islamabad," the report said.

Saudi Arabia provided $3 billion deposits to the State Bank of Pakistan in December 2021 while the Saudi oil facility was operationalised from March 2022, providing Pakistan with $100 million to procure oil.

Saudi Arabia has provided an enhanced financial package to Pakistan when its economy is in dire straits and the country is facing a balance of payment crisis. The country's foreign exchange reserves have depleted by $6 billion in the last six to seven weeks and nosedived to $10.5 billion.

With the rising current account deficit and pressing external loan repayment requirements, Pakistan requires financial assistance of $9 billion-$12 billion till June 2022 to avert further depletion of foreign currency reserves.

**New way out:** Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, right, welcoming Shehbaz Sharif in Jeddah on Saturday. • AFP

# Khan booked for slogans against Sharif in Saudi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Pakistan's Punjab police have booked ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and 150 others, including some members of his former Cabinet, in connection with the hounding of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation at Masjid-e-Nabwi in Saudi Arabia, officials said.

Video clips circulating on social media showed some pilgrims – apparently supporters of Mr. Khan – shouting '*chor*' (thief) and '*gaddar*' (traitor) as soon as Mr. Sharif and other members of his delegation arrived at the Prophet's Mosque in Madina on Thursday. The Pakistani pilgrims also used abusive language against the delegation members. Madina police claim to have arrested five Pakistanis involved in the sloganeering.

According to the FIR, over 100 supporters of Mr. Khan were sent to Saudi Arabia from Pakistan and the U.K. to carry out the mission.

Mr. Khan, in a TV interview, on Saturday distanced himself from the incident saying he could "not imagine asking anyone to carry out sloganeering at the sacred place."

# Indian-origin IT expert to head tech dept. at CIA

## Nand Mulchandani picked for the post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Nand Mulchandani, an Indian-American Silicon Valley IT expert who studied at a Delhi school, has been appointed the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) first-ever Chief Technology Officer.

The announcement was made by Director William J Burns on social media. According to the CIA, Mr. Mulchandani has over 25 years of expertise working in Silicon Valley.

"I am honoured to join the CIA and look forward to working with the Agency's incredible team of technologists and domain experts," Mr. Mulchandani said.

Mr. Mulchandani most recently served as the CTO and Acting Director of DoD's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center. He also co-founded and was CEO of several successful startups- Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina (acquired by VMWare), OpenDNS (acquired by Cisco), and ScaleXtreme (acquired by Citrix).

He has a degree in Computer Science and Math from Cornell, a Master of Science degree in Management from Stanford, and a Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard.

# IS claims bus bombing in Afghan capital

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Islamic State on Sunday claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a passenger bus that killed one woman in Afghanistan's capital.

Dozens of people have been killed and scores wounded in deadly attacks that have punctuated the last two weeks of the fasting month of Ramzan, which ends on Sunday. A woman was killed and three others were wounded in the bus attack, Kabul police said.

The bombing was the second in the country's capital in as many days.

# Taliban chief praises 'security' in Afghanistan

## He makes rare appearence to mark Id

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KANDAHAR

Afghanistan's supreme leader appeared publicly for only the second time in six years on Sunday, telling worshippers celebrating Id-ul-Fitr the Taliban had achieved freedom and security since seizing power last year.

Speaking just two days after a bomb ripped through a mosque in Kabul, an atmosphere of heightened security surrounded the man introduced as Hibatullah Akhundzada, the chief of the Taliban.

"Congratulations on this security and for the Islamic system," he told thousands of worshippers at the Eidgah mosque in Kandahar, the hardline Islamist group's de facto power centre.

While the number of bombings across the country has dropped since Kabul fell to the Taliban last August, attacks soared over the final two weeks of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Dozens of civilians have been killed in the primarily sectarian attacks targeting members of the Shiite and Sufi Muslim communities.

Friday's bombing of a Sunni mosque in capital Kabul killed at least 10 persons.

# SPORT

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Khelo India Games:** DD Sports, 6.15 a.m.
**IPL 2022:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**La Liga:** MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday).
**Serie A:** Voot Select & Jio TV, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday).

**IN BRIEF**

### Bagnaia wins Spanish MotoGP

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA (SPAIN)

Italian Francesco Bagnaia won the Spanish MotoGP at Jerez on Sunday ahead of France's reigning world champion Fabio Quartararo, who increased his lead at the top. Spaniards Aleix Espargaro and Marc Marquez took the next two places as Alex Rins failed to score. AFP

### Australia not to send athletes to Asian Games

SYDNEY

Australia said on Sunday that it will not be sending athletes to the Asian Games. The event is scheduled in Hangzhou from Sept. 10 to 25, less than 200km from Shanghai, which is battling a large Covid-19 outbreak. AFP

### Taylor edges Serrano as boxing history is made

NEW YORK

Ireland's Katie Taylor, *left in pic.*, retained her undisputed lightweight World title with a split decision win over Puerto Rican Amanda Serrano on Saturday in a history-making, epic fight here. The first women's bout to headline a fight card at the iconic New York venue in its 140-year history did not disappoint. AFP

# Unseeded Wang stuns Yamaguchi

## Takes the women's singles honours at Asia Championships

**BADMINTON**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANILA

Unseeded Wang Zhiyi withstood a late fightback from World champion Akane Yamaguchi to record a stunning victory in the women's singles final of the Badminton Asia Championships on Sunday.

### Pulsating action

The Chinese World No. 16 needed treatment on a back injury before hanging on to beat the Japanese top seed and defending champion Yamaguchi 15-21, 21-13, 21-19 in just under an hour and a half of pulsating action that had a raucous crowd rocking.

As in her semifinal win on Saturday over second seed An Se-young of South Korea, the 22-year-old Chinese had to recover from the loss of the opening game.

After levelling the match, Wang looked to be heading towards a comfortable victory.

**Bouncing back:** Wang rallied after losing the first game against Yamaguchi to clinch the title. • AFP

She raced to a 16-5 lead in the decider before nerves and her niggling back kicked in yet again to give Yamaguchi a lifeline.

The Japanese player used all her experience to claw her way back as Wang began to make unforced errors and Yamaguchi levelled at 19-19 after a lung-bursting 30-shot rally among them.

But Wang, who moments earlier had needed attention from the trainer at the side of the court, summoned up reserves of energy and forced Yamaguchi to go long to set up a first championship point.

### Marathon rally

Another marathon rally followed, but when Yamaguchi netted the rising star of Chinese badminton collapsed on to her back in exhaustion and elation as she became Asian champion for the first time.

# It was really unfair, says Sindhu

## The Indian star's dreams of winning gold derailed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu was left in tears after an "unfair" call by the umpires midway through her semifinal match against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi derailed her dream of winning a gold at the Badminton Asia Championships.

Leading 14-11 in the second game after having won the first game, Sindhu was handed a point penalty for taking too much time to serve between points.

The 26-year-old lost her momentum after that incident, losing 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to eventually end with a bronze, her second in the continental individual championship.

### Reasons for loss

"The umpire told me you're taking a lot of time but the opponent wasn't ready at that point. But the umpire suddenly gave her the point and it was really unfair. I think that was one of the reasons why I lost," said Sindhu after the match on Saturday.

"I mean that is my feeling because at that moment it was 14-11 and could have become 15-11 but instead, it became 14-12 and she took continuous points. And I think it was very unfair. Maybe I would have won the match and played in the final."

"I told the chief referee, he came and said it is already done. As a chief referee, you need to at least make sure what was the mistake. Maybe, he should have seen the replay and done something about it."

Sindhu's father P.V. Ramana said she was extremely disappointed with the decision.

"She was confident of winning a gold this time and so was very disappointed. She was crying when she spoke to me but I told her that it is done and dusted and she should forget about it," Ramanna said.

**Disappointed:** Sindhu was penalised for apparently taking a long time at a crucial stage of the match. • AFP

# Gukesh beats Alinsasab, among leaders

SPORTS BUREAU

D. Gukesh (two points) stayed among the 10 leaders after beating Iranian Woman International Master Mobina Alinsasab in the second round of the Chessable Sunway International chess tournament at Punta Prima, Spain, on Saturday.

Eyeing a third successive title, the fourth-seeded Indian needed 40 moves to post a second straight victory.

### Sasikiran held

Second seed K. Sasikiran (1.5) drew with Julien Song (France) following a threefold repetition of the moves. Soham Das (0.5) split the point with his Peter Cafolla (Ireland).

# Indian girls claim silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India claimed silver in the second Asian girls' youth beach handball championship in Bangkok, the National federation announced on Sunday.

India twice defeated Hong Kong, while against the host, the country won once and lost another to finish second in the tournament held from April 25 to 30.

Indian was represented by Anushka Chauhan, Jassi, Sanjana Kumari, Chetna Devi, Vanshika Mehta, Isha Majumdar.

The silver-medal finish also earned the team a spot in the World Youth Championship.

The senior women's team, on the other hand, finished with a bronze.

# Powerhouses of Indian football promise a fascinating finale

## Bengal takes on a rampant Kerala in summit clash today

**SANTOSH TROPHY**

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MANJERI

To say that Bengal has its task cut out against Kerala in the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship at the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium on Monday night would be an understatement.

Bengal faces a side that stormed into the final after slamming home seven goals in the semifinal. And that team will be playing in front of some of the most passionate football fans one would come across anywhere in the world – and there would be around 25,000 of them.

When the teams met early on in the competition, in the group stage, the host had won 2-0; so form, too, favours Kerala. But Bengal could fall back on history, though. It has won the tournament 32 times and been the runner-up on 13 occasions. Kerala has lifted the trophy six times. Its last triumph came in 2018, when it defeated Bengal in a shootout at Kolkata.

Four years and a pandemic later, the two powerhouses of Indian football promise another fascinating final. The focus would certainly be on Kerala striker T.K. Jesin, who scored five goals after coming on as a substitute in the semifinal against Karnataka.

Jijo Joseph is another player Bengal needs to be wary of. The captain has not just been scoring goals for Kerala, but creating them too. Bengal is also capable of playing attacking football as it showed in its 3-0 win in the semifinal against Manipur.

Its strikers Fardin Ali Moll and Dilip Orawn could trouble the Kerala defence.

**In focus:** Jesin, who struck five times in the semifinal, will be watched with interest. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

# Ruturaj and Conway sizzle as Super Kings outshine Sunrisers

Openers put on a record 182-run stand to blunt the Hyderabad attack; Washington's injury doesn't help Williamson's side; Pooran's blitz not enough

IPL 2022

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Mukesh Choudhary marked their return to home turf in style while Devon Conway gave his Indian Premier League franchise a perfect return gift for his wedding as Chennai Super Kings scored a 13-run win against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the MCA Stadium on Sunday.

Riding on a record 182-run opening partnership – CSK's highest-ever in the IPL, eclipsing the unbroken 181 between Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis against Kings XI Punjab in Dubai in October 2020 – Super Kings scored a mammoth 202 for two.

Mukesh then didn't let his poor fielding – he dropped a sitter from Abhishek Sharma off Maheesh Theekshana – spoil his confidence with the ball. The left-arm pacer registered his best T20 figures (four for 46) to seal the deal.

Mukesh's strikes off successive balls in the last two balls of the PowerPlay – Abhishek Sharma holed out to long-on and Rahul Tripathi to short third-man – gave Super Kings the edge. The pacer had to wait till the 18th over for his hat-trick ball. Even though Shashank Singh struck him over mid-off to thwart it, Mukesh took two more wickets in the same over.

The Super Kings spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Theekshana and Mitchell Santner produced an impressive performance on a strip that offered turn.

While skipper M.S. Dhoni used them for 10 overs combined, the lack of a quality spinner haunted the Sunrisers as the Chennai openers made merry against the pacers.

Washington Sundar, the lone specialist spinner in the Sunrisers ranks, injured his bowling hand in the fourth over while trying to stop a Ruturaj pull on the square-leg boundary. His absence forced skipper Kane Williamson to use Aiden Markram and Shashank for four overs and it cost the side 46 runs.

The way Ruturaj waded into pace-bowling sensation Umran Malik was a treat to watch. The 13 deliveries the pacer bowled to the opener fetched 33, including two sixes and four fours. Though there was a streaky boundary over the 'keeper, Ruturaj dominated the pacer. The lofted drive through long-on was the highlight of the night.

While Ruturaj slowed down after racing into the 70s by the 12th over, Conway, who was relatively quiet until then, took over. The Kiwi displayed his ability to clear the boundary as well as caress the ball through the gaps. This was a day when the openers and CSK hardly put a foot wrong.

**Super Kings!** Ruturaj and Conway put the Sunrisers attack to the sword, smashing 10 sixes and 14 fours between them. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

## SCOREBOARD

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS**
Ruturaj Gaikwad c Bhuvneshwar b Natarajan 99 *(57b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Devon Conway (not out) 85 *(55b, 8x4, 4x6)*, M.S. Dhoni c Umran b Natarajan 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-6, w-3): 9; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 202.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-182 (Ruturaj, 17.5 overs), 2-192 (Dhoni, 19.2).

**SUNRISERS BOWLING**
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-22-0, Jansen 4-0-38-0, Natarajan 4-0-42-2, Markram 3-0-36-0, Umran 4-0-48-0, Shashank 1-0-10-0.

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**
Abhishek Sharma c Pretorius b Mukesh 39 *(24b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Kane Williamson lbw b Pretorius 47 *(37b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rahul Tripathi c Simarjeet b Mukesh 0 *(1b)*, Aiden Markram c Jadeja b Santner 17 *(10b, 2x6)*, Nicholas Pooran (not out) 64 *(33b, 3x4, 6x6)*, Shashank Singh c Dhoni b Mukesh 15 *(14b, 1x4)*, Washington Sundar b Mukesh 2 *(2b)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2, nb-1): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 189.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-58 (Abhishek, 5.5 overs), 2-58 (Tripathi, 5.6), 3-88 (Markram, 9.5), 4-126 (Williamson, 14.2), 5-151 (Shashank, 17.4), 6-153 (Washington, 17.6).

**SUPER KINGS BOWLING**
Mukesh 4-0-46-4, Simarjeet 2-0-24-0, Santner 3-0-36-1, Theekshana 4-0-26-0, Jadeja 3-0-15-0, Pretorius 4-0-40-1.

**Toss:** SRH.
**MoM:** Ruturaj.
*CSK won by 13 runs.*

### Innings scan

| CSK | | SRH |
|---|---|---|
| 35 | Dots | 36 |
| 15 | Fours | 11 |
| 10 | Sixes | 11 |
| 40/0 | PP | 58/2 |
| 10.10 | RR | 9.45 |

### Next assignment

**CSK:** May 4 vs. **RCB**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

**SRH:** May 5 vs. **DC**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

# Weight of captaincy affected Jadeja: Dhoni

Says transition process began last year

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Minutes after marking his return as CSK captain with a win, M.S. Dhoni revealed that he had sounded out Ravindra Jadeja about taking over the reins of the IPL franchise.

**Big burden**

"Once you become captain, it means a lot of demands come in. But it affected his mind as the tasks grew. I think captaincy burdened his preparation and performances," said Dhoni after the victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday.

"Between me and Jadeja, he knew last season itself that he will be given a chance to captain this year. He knew and got enough time to prepare. I wanted that transition to happen," said Dhoni.

**Let him decide**

"In the first two games, there was information going in towards Jaddu and after that I left it to him to decide which angle to bowl and all that.

"At the end of the season, you don't want him to feel as if the captaincy was done by someone else and he was just going for the toss. So it was a gradual transition.

"Spoon-feeding doesn't really help a captain. On the field, you have to take those crucial decisions and you have to take responsibility for them," said Dhoni.

### A run short

Players who have been dismissed for 99 in the IPL

| | Opponent | Year |
|---|---|---|
| **Ruturaj Gaikwad *(CSK)*** | SRH | 2022 |
| Chris Gayle (KXIP) | RR | 2020 |
| Ishan Kishan (MI) | RCB | 2020 |
| Prithvi Shaw (DC) | KKR | 2019 |
| Virat Kohli (RCB) | DD | 2013 |

### The next 7 days

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **May 2** *(Mon)* | KKR vs RR | 7.30 p.m. | Wankhede |
| **May 3** *(Tue)* | GT vs PBKS | 7.30 p.m. | DY Patil |
| **May 4** *(Wed)* | RCB vs CSK | 7.30 p.m. | MCA Stadium |
| **May 5** *(Thu)* | DC vs SRH | 7.30 p.m | Brabourne |
| **May 6** *(Fri)* | GT vs MI | 7.30 p.m. | Brabourne |
| **May 7** *(Sat)* | PBKS vs RR | 3.30 p.m. | Wankhede |
| **May 7** *(Sat)* | LSG vs KKR | 7.30 p.m. | MCA Stadium |
| **May 8** *(Sun)* | SRH vs RCB | 3.30 p.m. | Wankhede |
| **May 8** *(Sun)* | CSK vs DC | 7.30 p.m. | DY Patil |

# Rahul, Mohsin help Super Giants do the double over Delhi Capitals

The Lucknow outfit survives a late scare from Pant's team to pull off a six-run win, climbs to the second spot

SANTADEEP DEY
MUMBAI

Captain K.L. Rahul's seventh fifty-plus score in his last 10 matches at the Wankhede Stadium and Mohsin Khan's impressive four-wicket haul helped Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) do the double over Delhi Capitals (DC) with a six-run win in an Indian Premier League match on Sunday.

Rahul (77, 51b, 4x4, 5x6), opting to bat on a new track on a humid afternoon, opened alongside Quinton de Kock. The South Africa wicketkeeper-batter got Super Giants off to a brisk start, but fell to an off-cutter from Shardul Thakur within the PowerPlay.

In at No. 3, Deepak Hooda (52, 34b, 6x4, 1x6) was quick to get off the blocks, and alongside Rahul made good use of the smaller boundaries. Capitals finished with their worst bowling PowerPlay this season, conceding 57 runs.

**Huge six**

With Rahul's humongous maximum that bounced off the tarps underneath the Sachin Tendulkar stand, the fifty-run partnership for the second wicket came off just 33 balls.

The two also brought up their individual fifties in back-to-back overs shortly after.

Soon Shardul got rid of Hooda and Lalit Yadav, having dropped Rahul on 15 and Stoinis on seven, made amends by holding on to a blinder to see the back of the LSG captain.

Although Marcus Stoinis and Krunal Pandya struggled, a six off the Aussie's blade in the final over took LSG to a challenging 195 for three.

**Early setbacks**

In reply, DC suffered early setbacks, losing openers Prithvi Shaw and David Warner cheaply.

However, Rishabh Pant (44, 30b, 7x4, 1x6), joining Mitchell Marsh (37, 20b, 3x4, 3x6) at the crease, seemed unperturbed. The two forged a fifty-run partnership off just 16 deliveries.

Things, however, started going downhill after Marsh was dismissed. The Australia all-rounder was given out caught behind only for the UltraEdge show no spike.

Ravi Bishnoi's googly turned square to deceive Lalit an over later.

With Rovman Powell (35, 21b, 3x4, 2x6) beginning to switch gears in the 12th over, Rahul brought on Mohsin Khan to deliver the death blow.

Mohsin's military medium-pace proved enough to take down Pant, Powell and Shardul in the final two overs of his spell.

Stoinis, summoned to bowl the final over, defended 21 runs, having survived an initial scare when Kuldeep Yadav tonked him over square-leg off the first ball.

**Telling blow:** Mohsin pegged back Capitals by getting rid of Pant after Rahul powered Super Giants to 195. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

## SCOREBOARD

**LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS**
Quinton de Kock c Lalit b Shardul 23 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul c Lalit b Shardul 77 *(51b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Deepak Hooda c & b Shardul 52 *(34b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 17 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya (not out) 9 *(6b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-13): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 195.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-42 (de Kock, 4.2 overs), 2-137 (Hooda, 14.3), 3-176 (Rahul, 18.4).

**CAPITALS BOWLING**
Mustafizur 4-0-37-0, Sakariya 4-0-44-0, Axar 4-0-25-0, Lalit 1-0-16-0, Shardul 4-0-40-3, Kuldeep 3-0-29-0.

**DELHI CAPITALS**
Prithvi Shaw c Gowtham b Chameera 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, David Warner c Badoni b Mohsin 3 *(4b)*, Mitchell Marsh c de Kock b Gowtham 37 *(20b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Rishabh Pant b Mohsin 44 *(30b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Lalit Yadav b Bishnoi 3 *(4b)*, Rovman Powell c Krunal b Mohsin 35 *(21b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 42 *(24b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Shardul Thakur c Krunal b Mohsin 1 *(2b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 16 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 189.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-5 (Shaw, 1.2 overs), 2-13 (Warner, 2.6), 3-73 (Marsh, 7.1), 4-86 (Lalit, 8.5), 5-120 (Pant, 12.6), 6-146 (Powell, 16.1), 7-148 (Shardul, 16.4).

**SUPER GIANTS BOWLING**
Mohsin 4-0-16-4, Chameera 4-0-44-1, Krunal 1-0-19-0, Holder 4-0-45-0, Bishnoi 4-0-28-1, Gowtham 2-0-23-1, Stoinis 1-0-14-0.

**Toss:** LSG; **MoM:** Mohsin.
*LSG won by six runs.*

### POINTS TABLE

| Team | M | W | L | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gujarat Titans | 9 | 8 | 1 | **16** | 0.377 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 10 | 7 | 3 | **14** | 0.397 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 9 | 6 | 3 | **12** | 0.450 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 9 | 5 | 4 | **10** | 0.471 |
| Royal Challengers Bangalore | 10 | 5 | 5 | **10** | -0.558 |
| Delhi Capitals | 9 | 4 | 5 | **8** | 0.587 |
| Punjab Kings | 9 | 4 | 5 | **8** | -0.470 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 9 | 3 | 6 | **6** | -0.006 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 9 | 3 | 6 | **6** | -0.407 |
| Mumbai Indians | 9 | 1 | 8 | **2** | -0.836 |

AFTER THE SRH-CSK MATCH ON MAY 1

### Innings scan

| LSG | | DC |
|---|---|---|
| 30 | Dots | 44 |
| 14 | Fours | 16 |
| 8 | Sixes | 10 |
| 57/1 | PP | 66/2 |
| 9.75 | RR | 9.45 |

### Next assignment

**DC:** May 5 vs. **SRH**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

**LSG:** May 7 vs. **KKR**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

# High-flying RR takes on a struggling KKR

SANTADEEP DEY
MUMBAI

High-flying Rajasthan Royals (RR) will look to shrug off the disappointment of a five-wicket defeat against Mumbai Indians when it meets a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in a return leg Indian Premier League (IPL) match at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

**Losing streak**

Knight Riders, who got off to a bright start in the 2022 edition, are now on a five-match losing streak. Captain Shreyas Iyer's statement after his side's loss to Delhi Capitals was telling.

"The combinations haven't worked for us. We are trying to settle in on one," he said.

Knight Riders have made 13 changes to their playing eleven – the most by any team – at the halfway mark.

On Monday, Orange Cap holder Jos Buttler and Purple Cap owner Yuzvendra Chahal will look to pick up from where they left in the first leg against KKR on April 18.

It was the first time in the IPL's 15-year history that a batter scored a century and a bowler took a hat-trick and five wickets in the same fixture. Although Shreyas and Aaron Finch scored 85 and 58 respectively, RR went on to pip KKR by seven runs.

KKR has lost the most wickets in the first six overs thus far – 18. With Trent Boult and Prasidh Krishna spearheading the Royals attack in the PowerPlay, the Knight Riders' top-order will have to look sharp.

Shimron Hetmyer's finishing acts have often saved RR the blushes.

However, the Guyanese batter, who is adept at scoring valuable runs at the death, will need the likes of Riyan Parag and Daryl Mitchell to provide him support from the other end.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

KKR vs. RR

WANKHEDE, 7.30 P.M.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD**
Played: 25
KKR 13 | RR 12

**PREVIOUS MEETING**
RR won by seven runs, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

# Arsenal stays ahead of Spurs, Everton gets a boost

Milan surges five points ahead, Juventus firms up top-four finish; Atletico suffers a big blow

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
LONDON

Everton kept alive its hopes of Premier League survival by shocking Chelsea 1-0 on Sunday, as Arsenal maintained its two-point lead over Tottenham in the battle to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Arsenal was a 2-1 winner at West Ham to move back above Spurs, which earlier beat Leicester 3-1 thanks to a Son Heung-min double.

Atletico Madrid's hopes of finishing second in LaLiga and securing a spot in the next Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia took a blow as it lost 2-0 at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday. It remains fourth on 61 points, three behind second-placed Sevilla and two off third-placed Barcelona.

**Simeone's worries**

Coach Diego Simeone's worries are not just about a Super Cup spot as Atletico is only four points ahead of fifth-placed Real Betis, which has a game in hand and visits Getafe on Monday.

Only LaLiga's top-four go into the Champions League.

AC Milan's Rafael Leao took advantage of a late goalkeeping howler as the Serie A leader went five points clear at the top with a 1-0 win against Fiorentina on Sunday.

**Happy:** Holding, centre, is over the moon after scoring Arsenal's opener. • AFP

Earlier, Leonardo Bonucci celebrated his 35th birthday by putting Juve on the brink of Champions League football with a double in Sunday's 2-1 win over Venezia.

**The results: Premier League:** Everton 1 (Richarlison 47) bt Chelsea 0; Tottenham 3 (Kane 22, Son 60, 79) bt Leicester 1 (Iheanacho 90+1); West Ham 1 (Bowen 45) lost to Arsenal 2 (Holding 38, Gabriel 54).
**Serie A:** Juventus 2 (Bonucci 7, 76) bt Venezia 1 (Aramu 71); Empoli 1 (Zurkowski 56) lost to Torino 3 (Belotti 78-pen, 87-pen, 90+6); AC Milan 1 (Leao 82) bt Fiorentina 0; Udinese 1 (Pussetto 72) lost to Inter 2 (Perisic 12, Martinez 39).
**La Liga:** Elche 1 (Pere Milla 84) drew with Osasuna 1 (Budimir 67-pen).
**Saturday: La Liga:** Valencia 1 (Duro 27) drew with Levante 1 (Duarte 81); Athletic Bilbao 2 (Hermoso 8-og, I. Williams 56-pen) bt Atletico Madrid 0.
**Serie A:** Sampdoria 1 (Sabiri 25) bt Genoa 0; Spezia 3 (Amian 9, Agudelo 35, Hristov 54) lost to Lazio 4 (Immobile 33-pen, Provedel 54-og, Milinkovic-Savic 68, Acerbi 90).

# Bengaluru City retains hockey title

## Osmania blanks Rajasthan in women's tennis final; Aparna takes women's 100m hurdles gold

KHELO VARSITIES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University defended its title by defeating Guru Nanak Dev University 3-0 in the men's hockey final of the Khelo India University Games on Sunday.

Harish Mutagar, who finished as the top goal-scorer of the tournament, recorded a brace for the champion.

In the women's tennis team event final, Osmania University blanked University of Rajasthan 2-0.

In the women's 100m hurdles, Aparna Roy (14.28s) of University of Kerala took top honours. In women's 3000m steeplechase, Komal Jagadale of Savitribai Phule Pune University took the gold medal with a timing of 10:13.49s.

**The results: Athletics (Winner): Women: 100m hurdles:** Aparna Roy (University of Kerala) 14.28s.

**Archery: Recurve individual, final: Men:** Sachin Gupta (Kurukshetra) bt Yashdeep Bhoge (Sant Gadge Baba Amravati) 6-4.

**Women:** Charuta Kamalapur (Savitribai Phule, Pune) bt Bhavna (Guru Jambeshwar ) 5(9) - 5(9) (Charuta's arrow was closer to centre).

**Hockey: Men: Final:** Bengaluru City 3 (Harish Mutagare 28, 60, Vasant Kumar Gokavi 51) bt Guru Nanak Dev 0.

**Tennis: Women: Final:** Osmania bt University of Rajasthan 2-0 (Sama Satwika bt Sachi Sharma 6-2, 6-2; Rashmika Srivali bt Renee Singh 6-0, 6-0).

**Shooting: Women: 10m Individual Air Pistol: Final:** Yuvika Tomar (Ch Charan Singh) bt Radhika Tanwar (Ch Bansi Lal) 16-6.

**50m Rifle 3 Positions Individual: Final:** Ashi Chouksey (Guru Nanak Dev) bt Shrishti Mishtra (Barkatullah) 17-15.

Golden run: Komal Jagadale, who won the women's 3000m steeplechase. •K. MURALI KUMAR

# Coach Ankit Patel sums up the agony of India falling short

## 'Rare to lose from 9-5 in the super tie-break in doubles'

WJT

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian team had five match points in the doubles to win the quarterfinals against Korea, the eventual champion, and book one of the four berths for the World Group under-14 tennis competition.

As destiny would have it, the Koreans survived the match points to eventually emerge as the No.1 team.

Coach Ankit Patel, the captain of the under-14 boys' team in the Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis competition in the capital, was indeed disheartened about the host finishing fifth, but expressed confidence that the boys can gain from the experience and get better.

"The loss against Korea was most disheartening and very hard to digest. It is rare for a team to lose from 9-5 in the super tie-break in doubles. Both Arnav (Paparkar) and Tanussh (Ghildyal) had served aces and unreturned serves in winning six of the first 14 points. We made the mistake of changing the winning strategy at that stage," recalled the captain.

"Our plan was to come in for volley, rebound the pace that they were hitting and give them less time to make big back swing. After 9-5, we changed the game plan and tried to hit hard from base line," Ankit said, about the Indian pair veering off its winning path.

The coach felt that the Indian team was easily among the three best out of 16 assembled countries, along with Japan and Korea.

"Arnav played five singles and won all five. Our boys really deserved to be in the final. Both Arnav and Tanussh were only 70% fit and were having medicines before their matches, during the tournament.

"Arnav did not play singles against Japan because of an upset stomach, and Tanussh was having cramps after beating the Japanese, thus not being able to play the doubles.

"Because we lost to Japan in the league, we had to play Korea or Kazakhstan in the quarterfinals. As destiny would have, we met Korea," said Ankit.

**Learning from mistakes**

The coach felt that with improved fitness, proper nutrition and sleep, the Indian players could match the best in the game.

"Overall, it was good, but could have been better. If we want to succeed, we should not be worried about failures. Of course, we should learn from our mistakes, and pursue the right path," he said.

Tough luck: Ankit Patel felt that the Indian team was among the three best, along with Japan and Korea. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Dalilah. •FILE PHOTO

# Dalilah, Parchment and Crouser finish on top

## The Olympic champions shine in the tune-up for the Worlds in July

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Olympic champions Dalilah Muhammad, Hansle Parchment and Ryan Crouser won titles at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday in a tune-up meet for July's World Championships.

Reigning World 400m hurdles champion Muhammad, the 2016 Olympic champion and last year's runner-up, won the 400 hurdles in a 2022 world best of 53.88s, defeating Panama's Gianna Woodruff by a second.

"It felt good," Dalilah said. "I just wanted to go out there and have a clean race and bring it home."

US compatriot Crouser, the two-time reigning Olympic champion and world record-holder in the men's shot put, topped the charts with an effort of 21.63m with Italy's Nick Ponzio second at 21.04m.

Parchment, the reigning Olympic 110m hurdles champion from Jamaica, won the event in 13.47 with American Jamal Britt second in 13.53 and Barbados' Shane Braithwaite third in 13.69.

"Technically not so great but I came through injury-free... that's the most important thing," Parchment said.

In the men's 400m hurdles, Brazilian Alison Dos Santos, third last year at the Tokyo Olympics, won in 48.41, the second-best time in the world this year and 1.02 ahead of American runner-up David Kendziera.

American Tia Jones led a US sweep in the women's 100m hurdles in 12.84 after Tokyo Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico struck the first hurdle and did not finish.

New Zealand's Sam Tanner won the men's 1,500m in 3:41.28 with American Casey Comber second in 3:45.20.

Mexico's Laura Galvan won the women's 1,500m .

# Fit-again Nadal back in the swing

## Spaniard could face Djokovic in semifinal

TENNIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

Back home, Rafael Nadal looks to resume his season where he left off before being sidelined by an injury that halted a great start to his year.

Nadal will seek his fourth title of the season this week at the Madrid Open as he returns to action following a rib stress fracture that kept him out for about a month.

The Spaniard had won his first 20 matches of the year before getting injured in the semifinals at Indian Wells. He made it to the final but lost to Taylor Fritz for his first defeat.

Nadal won the Australian Open for a record 21st Grand Slam title and also clinched titles in Melbourne and Acapulco. He missed tournaments in Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona because of the injury.

The 35-year-old will be trying to win the Madrid title for the sixth time, and his first since 2017, though he said last week he would have "few chances" of winning after arriving "with minimum preparation."

Nadal could face a semifinal against top-ranked Novak Djokovic, who has been trying to regain his form after a slow start to the season.

Nadal. •FILE PHOTO

BENGALURU LOCALS

**Leynold scores South United's winner**

Leynold Carlo Mark's 73td minute goal helped South United FC beat Blitz FC 2-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship, here on Sunday.

**The results:** South United FC 2 (Shamsheer Singh 39, Leynold Carlo Mark 73) bt Blitz FC 1 (Mithun 53).

**South India edges Tilak Memorial**

Aushal's first-half injury-time goal proved the difference as South India FC edged Tilak Memorial 1-0 in the BDFA B-division league championship on Sunday.

The result: South India FC 1 (Aushal 35+1) bt Tilak Memorial FC 0.

**Joshua, Pradyumna star in RIT's title triumph**

Joshua (14 points) and Pradyumna (12) helped Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT) beat NMIT 50-47 in the final of the all-India inter-collegiate basketball championship for the Devadan Cup conducted by Christ University recently.

**The result (final):** RIT 50 (Joshua 14, Pradyumna 12) bt NMIT 47 (Sumanth 16, Bhuvan 15).

# Ancelotti in a class of his own

## Only coach to have clinched all five major European titles

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti might have thought his days of winning Europe's biggest leagues were a thing of the past but on Saturday he added La Liga to his glittering list of honours.

Madrid's triumph ensured Ancelotti becomes the only coach to have clinched all five major European league titles.

He also won the Premier League with Chelsea, Serie A with AC Milan, Ligue 1 with Paris Saint-Germain and the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich.

And while Ancelotti's Chelsea pipped Alex Ferguson's Manchester United to the league by a single point in 2010 the others have all been won at a canter, with Real's latest success another emphatic and long-expected title win for Ancelotti to add to his CV.

Inspirational: Ancelotti has managed to make Benzema and Vinicius into a potent strike force. •REUTERS

At the top of Ancelotti's successes this season has been the transformation of Vinicius Junior from an exciting but erratic young forward to one of the world's most clinical strikers.

Benzema, meanwhile, has hit a new, stratospheric level under Ancelotti, continuing his upward trajectory since the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo in 2018.

Luka Modric has been outstanding again, the 36-year-old Croatian the most resounding riposte to early concerns about Ancelotti's lack of rotation

And the Italian shored up the defence with little fuss. The departures of Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane broke up a long-established partnership but the performances of Eder Militao and David Alaba have ensured neither have been missed.

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₹ 833.84 Cr
Up by 46.41%

PROFIT AFTER TAX
₹ 633.53 Cr
₹ 82.88%

NET NPA REDUCTION
By 44.39%

Extract of Audited Financial Results for the year ended 31.03.2022

(₹ in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Current Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited) | Previous Year Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Total Income from Operations | 2,874.15 | 2,657.74 |
| 2 | Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before Tax , Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 833.84 | 569.52 |
| 3 | Net Profit /(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items ) | 833.84 | 569.52 |
| 4 | Net Profit /(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items ) | 633.53 | 346.41 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit /(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | 555.73 | 99.17 |
| 6 | Paid-up Equity Share Capital | 2,284.60 | 784.60 |
| 7 | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves ) | 2,983.51 | 2,210.59 |
| 8 | Securities Premium Account | - | - |
| 9 | Networth | 5,268.11 | 2,995.19 |
| 10 | ~~Paid-up Debt Capital~~ / Outstanding Debt | 27,613.07 | 24,000.00 |
| 11 | Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares | - | - |
| 12 | Debt Equity Ratio | 5.24 | 8.01 |
| 13 | Earnings Per Share (F.V. of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) | | |
| | 1. Basic | 8.03 | 4.42 |
| | 2. Diluted | 8.03 | 4.42 |
| 14 | Capital Redemption Reserve | - | - |
| 15 | Debenture Redemption Reserve | 351.68 | 305.39 |

Notes: a) The above results have been recommended by the Audit Committee of Directors and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 30.04.2022.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly /annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly /annual financial results are available on the websites of the Company (www.ireda.in) , BSE (www.bseindia.com) and NSE (www.nseindia.com) .
c) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE and NSE and can be accessed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Sd/-
Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 07448576

Date : 30.04.2022
Place: New Delhi

INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: 1st Floor, Core-4A, East Court, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003 Tel: 011-24682206-19, Fax: 011-24682202
Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066 Tel: 011-26717400- 12, Fax: 011-26717416, Website: www.ireda.in
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